

A N

①

INQUIRY

INTO THE

State *and* Progress

OF THE

LINEN MANUFACTURE

OF
I R E L A N D.

In which will be introduced

Remarks on the Principal Transactions
of the Trustees of the *Linen Board*.

To be Published Monthly.

N U M B E R I.



D U B L I N:

Printed by and for S. POWELL in Crane-lane.

MDCCCLVII.

INQUIRY

INTO THE

State and Progress

OF THE

LIBERTY

AS these Papers are to be published in Numbers, it is thought necessary to prefix this Pamphlet to the First Number of the INQUIRY, because there will be frequent Occasion to refer to it throughout the Whole.

To be Published Monthly.

NUMBER I



1793

DUBLIN:

Printed by and for S. Powell in Great Street.

MDCCLXXIII.

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE

OF THE

Linen Manufacture.

Humbly addressed to the

TRUSTEES

OF THE

LINEN BOARD.

Published in 1754.

THE SECOND EDITION.

A 2

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE

OF THE

Linen Manufacture



TRUSTEES

OF THE

LINEN BOARD.

Published in 1754

The Second Edition.



TO
The Right HONOURABLE and HONOURABLE
THE
TRUSTEES
OF THE
LINEN MANUFACTURE.



HAT general Silence, which prevails amongst Men, whose Pens might perhaps better suit the Task, has induced me to put into some Order, such Remarks, as my Experience as a Manufacturer, and Advantages in conducting the Linen Manufacture in general, have qualified me to make ; and I take this Method of referring them to the Consideration of the Honourable Board :

DEDICATION.

Should they appear to deserve your Attention, and in any Respect, promote the true Interest of the Linen Manufacture of this Kingdom, it will sufficiently repay my Pains. Who am, with the greatest Respect, Gentlemen,

Your most Humble,

And most Obedient Servant,

Rob. Stephenson.

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE, &c.

In Relation to FLAX-SEED.

AS I propose treating of several Branches of the Linen Manufacture *in Course*, this properly is the first Article, and I shall take up less Time under this Head than it may be supposed from its Importance to require, as I believe the many Experiments you have made on it, must have given you a very good Opportunity of judging what Steps are most salutary to be taken for the Future.

The Improvement, Extension, and Support of our Linen Manufacture necessarily depend on the providing Materials of the best Quality, and on the cheapest Terms, consequently the Importation of Flax-seed of a proper Age and Growth to suit the various Demands of the Public, must always be well worthy the Inspection of your honourable Board. It's to be hoped Experience will inform you, that it is very injudicious to embark in any Branch (particularly this) of the Linen Manufacture, at your own Expence, as the Public can reap no Advantage from thence, for the following Reasons: Whatever Encouragements you may propose to the Farmer, or

Flax-Grower, yet they will not induce him to sow that Country Flax-seed he does not find from Experience to agree with the Nature of his Soil ; and the cautious Merchant will decline giving his customary Orders for that sort of Flax-seed he finds you engage in, lest the Market should thereby be over-stocked ; altho' it is reasonable to suppose his Experience might inform him how, and from what Place, to import on much better Terms.

However, suppose your Adventure is attended with neither of those national Disadvantages, the evil Consequence to the Public may still be the greater ; for, should the poor Farmer quit that certain Path which Experience has taught him, by sowing Seed that doth not agree with his Soil, the Loss of his Labour, his Land, and first Cost of Flax-seed, may reduce his industrious little Family to Beggary for want of that Material, which was the Security of the Landlord as well as their own Provision. The Merchant likewise, should he give Orders for his usual Quantity, may find the Market glutted with that particular kind of Seed, and is thereby discouraged from ordering any the succeeding Year, whereby the Farmer that used to sow that Sort annually, finds himself distressed in not being able to procure the Kind of Flax-seed that has always answered his Purpose. These Considerations should guard you against interfering in *that* Branch of the Linen Manufacture, lest you should endanger the throwing it out of the natural Channel, and you will think the Scheme of importing Flax-seed less interesting to embark in, when you are informed, that there is sufficient Store and to spare, annually imported of every Country Growth we use, and the Farmer's Experience directs him best what Country Flax-seed to sow ; and the Demand on the Merchant what Country Seed, and the Quantity he is to import.

In

In Relation to F L A X.

YOUR honourable Board have always been very attentive to this Article ; but it is presumed through want of Information, and by pursuing the Plans of such as only consult their own Interests, you have been greatly misled, as will appear in a few Instances following ; however, you will think all your Encouragements in raising *Irish* Flax well disposed of when you are informed of its Merits.

The Quality of *Irish* Flax is of a very different Nature from that of *Russia*, or almost any other Country from whence we, at any time, import.

It is a Maxim amongst Manufacturers, founded on Experience, That Yarn made of *Irish* Flax is superior in Quality, and more useful to the Manufacturer, by one sixth Part of the Value, than that of equal Appearance made of Foreign Flax : But to make this more clear, thirty-six Pounds of Yarn spun out of *Irish* Flax, will run as far as forty-one to forty-five Pounds of Yarn made of Foreign Flax, and at the same time the Yarn made of *Irish* Flax, shall cloath and skin, better in the Linen, than that made of the Foreign Flax, by which Means the Linen will bring a better Price, and the Experience of each Market, to which we export our Linens, sufficiently evidence the Quality of our Flax being better by our Linens out-wearing that of every Nation whatever, where there is at first an equal Appearance of Strength : And there is a still greater Disadvantage attends the making Use of Foreign Flax in our Manufacture, when laid on the Bleach-yard, its almost a Certainty that it turns out full of Rows, liked a striped Ticken, never to be bleached out ; and at best it requires double Stuff and Labour to bring it to a tolerable Colour. This I have experienced to be Fact, and can give the fullest Demonstration

monstration of it: And this alone disqualifies us from carrying on the finer Branches of the Manufacture, which require Colour, with any certainty of acquiring Reputation, where there is any foreign Flax whatever vended.

I shall now endeavour, in some Measure, to account for that native Advantage which Experience manifests to us in *Irish* Flax over the Foreign, and it will appear, at least, as considerable as I have represented it, to every minute Examiner.

Irish Flax, in every Degree of Operation, is remarkable for its Silkiness and kindly manner of working; and its being pulled generally before the Seed is thoroughly formed, whereby the Juices are exhausted from the Stalk, and the Coat, or Harle, more parched with the Sun, contributes not a little to this, as well as its Fineness. It easily splits on the Hackle into a greater Multiplicity of Harles or Fibres, than the Foreign Flax, and from its Silkiness arises a Down that cloaths the Linen, and its requiring a greater Number of Harles to compose the Thread makes it the less solid, and consequently lighter than the Yarn made of Foreign Flax of equal Appearance in Fineness.

The Foreign Flax we import is of a firm and solid Quality, and compared with *Irish* Weight heavy to its Appearance, its Coat harsh and staring, and will not easily split on the Hackle; and there are evidently some Particles or Salts in it, contracted from the Soil in the East Country, and the intense and scorching Heat of the Sun, they are subject to in the Summer Months, which, joined with that Solidity in the Harle, prevents the Materials in bleaching from operating with that Ease as on *Irish* Flax, and, as I have before taken Notice, it's too often found that our Linens are made of such Flax as no Athes, or Sours, will bring to a Colour: And this is certainly owing to their having a Mixture of Yarn
made

made of Foreign Flax in them; for it's observable, that you will rarely meet with a rowy Piece of Linen brought from any Part of the Country where there is not a Vent for Foreign Flax.

These Considerations should induce you to leave no Scheme untried, until the Public are put in a proper Way of supplying themselves with a sufficient Quantity of Flax of our own Growth. And in doing so you would, in a great Measure, remove the many Complaints attributed to Rubbing-boards, as I am of Opinion the greater Part of our present Damages are occasioned by the bringing Linens (where any Part is composed of Foreign Flax) to a proper Colour.

I will now venture to give my Opinion, in respect to such Measures as might probably have the desired Effect, in promoting the Growth of *Irish* Flax, without being so liable to Impositions, as the present Way of distributing Premiums.

In the first Place, then, I would recommend the striking off all Flax-shops, and every Encouragement whatever in the Kingdom for vending Flax; and, when you set about this useful Work with Spirit, so as effectually to encourage the raising a sufficient Quantity for our own Consumption, the Continuation of any Encouragement in favour of Foreign, or whomsoever shall manufacture Foreign Flax, must be judged imprudent, as that would be giving Premiums in direct Contradiction to each other, which should always be carefully avoided. By this Means you'll add a Saving to your Fund that, with proper Care, may be sufficient to execute the Plan I would recommend, which is no other than a saving Improvement on a Scheme laid down to you by a worthy Member of your honourable Board, in a Letter to the Right Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons, by appointing a Premium to be given at so much *per Cent.* on the Value, on all
the

the clean scutched Flax produced before an Inspector, appointed by you and the Magistrates of each County at the Quarter-sessions, or such central Town, and at such Time as you should think proper to appoint, and leave it to the Owners and Growers of the Flax to find a Market for it.

Suppose you began by giving 10 *per Cent.* on the Value of the clean scutched Flax produced, then a Premium of 5000*l.* which is not a great deal more than Flax-shops have cost you in a Year, would produce 50000*l.* Value of Flax, which of *Irish* Flax, according to our usual Prices of three Pence to four Pence halfpenny *per* Pound, would be an additional Quantity sufficient to supply the whole Kingdom. However, this is supposing every one to produce their Flax for the Premium, which could never be the Case, as it would only be worthy the Attention of Flax Farmers to apply for it, and by this Means you might be enabled with safety to encrease your Premium the second Year, if you found the first not a sufficient Encouragement.

Under this Restraint no one could possibly claim but from Merit, nor would you be subject to a greater Premium than the Value of the Flax produced, as has been the Case heretofore, as the same Author very clearly represents to you in his Letter, *Page* 6. where the Board, in the Year 1753, paid 2000*l.* Premium for raising Flax, where the full Value of all the Flax produced, as appears by their own Certificates, would not amount to 1000*l.*; and this Scheme will be thought the less expensive and troublesome to execute when you observe, that it is only changing the Manner of applying the same Sum for the same Purpose; and, if by striking off a Parcel of Flax-shops that are, at present, evidently of very little Use, (and but too many of them appointed to Creatures that think of nothing more than making Affidavits annually conformable to your Orders,

ders, so as to obtain your Premiums) and applying the Fund, according to the above Scheme, you can obtain the desired Effect, it will be a most wholesome and advantageous Plan for the Public, in adding a great Saving to the Nation in providing our own Material, employing our Poor, cultivating our Lands, and preventing many of being guilty of wilful Perjury, as is daily the Case at present.

I cannot, however, pass this Article without taking notice of your established Encouragements for Flax-dressers. You have Salaries appointed for them to the Amount, I believe, of upwards of 500*l. per Annum*, besides the great Encouragement given to support the Poor-house Scheme, which the last mentioned Author values at 850*l. per Annum*, by which means you have created a number of this Trade, at least three Times as many as is necessary. Pray, would it not be more adviseable at this Time, to carry this Part of your Fund into some other Channel, that may be thought more useful to the Public.

In Relation to SPINNING, and SPINNING-SCHOOLS.

I Believe this Article has been the most expensive of any Branch of the Linen Manufacture to your honourable Board, and that in a great measure owing to your not putting your Schools at first under proper Regulations, so as to terminate at a certain Period of Time, when that Part of the Country, where they were appointed, might be supposed to have acquired a sufficient Knowledge in Spinning. It is true, nothing could be more conducive to the Advancement of the Linen Manufacture, and Improvement of the Country in general, than forwarding this useful Scheme, in pointing out the Way for each poor Family to employ themselves to the greatest Advantage for their mutual Support, without danger of exceeding the Consumption.

However I am of opinion you'll now observe your Attention has been so close to the Article of Spinning, that you have in some measure neglected the Weaving Branch, which in a manufacturing Country should rather lead, as Weavers will create Spinning, but Spinners will never lead the Country into Weaving, as may be instanced in the County of *Mayo*, and many other Counties, where the Women are generally Spinners, and scarce a Weaver to be found.

I shall under the Title of Weaving give my Reasons why the creating of Weavers has not increased as quick as Spinners, and shew, that the disagreeable Situation of a Manufacturer in not having his Property secured, so as to carry on the Weaving-branch without an infinite deal of Trouble, is the sole Reason, why Men of Property and
Fortune

Fortune very rarely embark deeply in the Southern Provinces of this Kingdom, but leave the now troublesome Situation of conducting and employing Weavers to People of narrow Circumstances, who can the better attend the few they employ, and thereby, for want of Capital, subject the weaving Branch to the many Vicissitudes that Trade is liable to, and by this Means the poor Weaver is turned Idle when there is not an immediate Demand ; which alone is sufficient to discourage poor People from breeding their Sons Weavers : But to return to Spinning,

I believe it will be readily granted, that there is no Occasion for appointing Spinning-schools to instruct such Children in Spinning, whose Parents are professed Spinners of Linen Yarn, and yet, almost all your Spinning-schools are filled with such Scholars ; and what is still more extraordinary, many of your Spinning-school-mistresses, pay Girls a small Premium to come and Spin for themselves in those Schools, so as to put it in the Power of the School-mistress to make an Affidavit, agreeable to your Regulations to receive your Bounty.

The Acquisition of the Art of Spinning is not so difficult a Task as to require any School being appointed in any Neighbourhood, or even County, where the spinning of Linen-yarn is in Practice ; and, it is to be observed, that the many Improvements made daily in the Linen Manufacture, greatly vary the Necessities of it's Encouragements ; and I am humbly of Opinion, if you were more sparing of your establishing Grants for a Course of Years to Flax Factories, Bleach-yards and Spinning-schools, and only assist them as their immediate Merits deserve, you might avoid being at any Time stinted in your Fund, and apply your Savings

vings to more useful Purposes, many of which, I shall point out in the Course of my Remarks.

There is another Consideration I would have you take in, with Respect to the spinning of Linen-yarn; you are not at present under a Necessity of enforcing Spinning, but leave it to make its own Way; as we have nearly as much Yarn to spare annually, as we manufacture into our exported Linens; and Women might be more advantageously employ'd in weaving up some of the Yarn we have to spare, into some of the lighter Branches of the Manufacture, such as Buckrams, Britannias, &c. And it is very well known, the *English* Manufactures can be supplied with *East* Country Yarn on as reasonable Terms, and the Duties on foreign Yarn imported into *England* have been taken off within these two or three Years, in Expectation that we should weave up all our own Yarn; and indeed, it is a very favourable Circumstance, by which Means we have an Opportunity of carrying our Linen Manufactures to the highest Degree of Perfection, and adding to our national Wealth by the Encrease and Employment of our Workmen.

I cannot pass over this Article, without taking Notice of one Rule that never should be neglected, always to avoid the drawing Flax beyond the Staple; for, by this ill-judged Maxim, of thinking the finest Spinners the most estimable, the Progress of learning to Spin, and the Trade of Weaving have been greatly retarded; besides, the Prejudice that (drawing Flax beyond the Staple) must naturally do the Manufacture, is of the worst Consequence, and the spinning School-mistresses have been rather more culpable in this last mentioned Article, than any others in the Kingdom.

In Relation to WEAVING.

THIS Branch of the Manufacture will, upon Examination, appear, to deserve your Attention and Assistance in a much greater Degree than any yet mentioned ; for it is your Province to learn from Men of the greatest Experience and Knowledge in the Linen Manufacture in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, what Species, or Kind of Linen the Yarn spun in the several Counties of this Kingdom, may most usefully and properly be converted to, and then, by a small and well regulated Premium for that County, or District, lead the Inhabitants into that Branch which shall appear most suitable to the Nature of their Yarn and Spinning, by which Means you would remove two great Inconveniencies that at present injure the Public.

The first is, manufacturing our Yarn into extraordinary Quantities of particular Kinds of Linens, thereby overstocking and clogging the Markets with that Article, whilst other Branches of the Manufacture, to which Part of the Yarn might be more properly applied lie totally neglected. And, in the second Place, leaving those unexperienced Parts of the Kingdom where the Manufacture is extending itself, to fall into such Branches as are most commonly known, without enquiring into the Quality of the Yarn made there, or considering what Species of the Manufacture it would most properly suit.

For want of such timely Information, so as to represent in the plainest, and the easiest Way, the Nature of conducting such Manufactures, as from the Quality of their Yarn, and the Genius of the People they shall be aptest to succeed in, Manufacturers in the *southern* Provinces of this Kingdom, generally meet with the most discouraging Circumstances ; in their Efforts to vie with the Province of

Ulster in the few Branches the People of the *North* have by unwearied Application become Masters of.

The Reasons will be obvious to any that make the least Enquiry, and are these, the Spinning is not so smooth or well twisted, the Workmanship, altho' not executed with that Dexterity and Neatness, much dearer, and the Colour (tho' not obtained on such easy Terms) for want of Experience, much inferior, by which Means the Disparity between the Manufactures of the *North* and *South* of the same Species or Denomination of Linen is frequently so great, that it is impossible to vend them either at Home or Abroad for the same Uses.

Whereas, apply the Yarn and Genius of the People of the *Southern* Provinces of this Kingdom, to such Branches of the Manufacture, as from the Quality and Cheapness of their Yarn, and Inexperience of the People best suits them, and they will be put in as Successful and Profitable, a Way, as the Manufacturers and Drapers of *Ulster* are in those Branches they are at present possessed of.

It would take up too much Time to enumerate the various Sorts of Linen that the Spinning of the different Parts of this Kingdom would suit, and it would require a considerable Time, and many Experiments to determine, the most useful and safe Application that the Spinning of the several Counties might with the greatest Convenience and Advantage be applied to, however, such a Task executed with Judgment, and by Men of Experience, must be of the greatest Utility to the Nation.

There is a Plumpness and Fullness in the Pound Yarn made in the *southern* Provinces, that best suits the Manufacture of Sheetings, and Dowlas, and of these many different Sorts should be made, both in Breadths and Fineness, to supply the different Demands at Market ; and it is only in these Provinces

vinces you can get Yarn fit to make Oznaburghs: And the statutable Yarn of *Connaught*, *Munster*, and *Leinster*, might be used to the greatest Advantage (both from its Cheapness and not being hard twisted) in the Manufacture of low Yard-wides for printing, for which there is an extensive Demand in *England*, and we have almost lost this Branch of late Years, by the Yarn in the North, where they were manufactured, becoming too dear, and being now made of Tow, in the Place of good Flax, which was the Case formerly. Here likewise might be opened a large Field to work in, if we consider the various Species of Linen Manufactures which might be introduced of Buckrams, Linens for half stiffening, from the lowest to the highest, both White and Grey, and the different Kinds of Linen for staying, Linings, and glazed Linen, and a coarse stout Sort of twilled Linen, called Drabs, for Mens Frocks, with various other Kinds that would take up too much room to mention here, of which there is a most extensive Consumption in *England* and the Plantations, but which is now entirely supplied by the *Germans* or *Scotch*, altho' I am certain, considering our Advantages in the Flax and Spinning, &c. we might beat all Competitors out of the *English* Markets; and in those low priced Articles the Duties on foreign Linens fall much heavier (as they are mostly at so much *per* Yard) consequently more in our Favour than in the Branches we now so much encourage and pursue.

I have made many Experiments in these several Branches, and am satisfied the Introduction of them here would be attended with Success.

The Manufacture of the different Kinds of *Britannias* for the Consumption of *Spain*, *Portugal*, and the *West-Indies*, would very well suit the Spinning of the Counties of *Cavan*, *Fermanagh*, and *Down-gall*, and many other Parts of the Kingdom, which

would take up too much of my Time to enquire into here; and, as they require to be light made, and a high Colour is not necessary, the Inhabitants of those Counties might be easily led into the Manufacture of them; and it is very well known, that the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese* would give a Preference to our Linen Manufactures, before any Nation whatever.

If my Business allowed me that Leisure I could wish, I should before this Time have executed a Scheme, I have long been of Opinion must answer a most useful Purpose, in forming Slaying Tables in the plainest intelligible way, for all the coarser Branches of the Linen Manufacture that we could possibly hope to fall into, as they are executed in any Part of *Europe*, but such a Design as this must have the Sanction and Support of your honourable Board, before it could effect that general Good I would purpose from it.

Was this properly done, so as to give a true Idea of the Quality, Colour, Breadth, Length, &c. of each Sort of Linen, and the Uses they are applied to, Manufacturers and such Gentlemen as were desirous of promoting the Interest of this Kingdom in the Extension of the Linen Manufacture, would be induced to make Experiments agreeable to those Slaying Tables; and no doubt many Improvements might be made by the superior Genius of our Workmen, and the native Advantage in our Flax, which I have set forth under that Head.

By pursuing such Steps, our Linen Manufacture might be extended to the greatest Degree of Perfection, without the Appearance of over-stocking the Market with any particular Species of Linens, as hath been the Case frequently of late Years.

And if our Gentlemen residing in the Country would take some more Pains, and pursue some of the Plans of Encouragement laid down by Sir *Richard*

Cox,

Cox, in a Letter to Mr. *Prior*, and put them in Practice, they would encourage the Poor to manufacture our Yarn into the various Sorts of Linen it would admit of, and turn to account. And I am of Opinion, if a considerable Number of Looms were disposed of in such new Branches as should be thought most expedient, and under proper Regulations, such as giving Security to keep them employed, and making an annual Return of the Work done in each Loom, it would be a strong Incentive to Industry, and a Means of creating so many Weavers in a short time, as must necessarily throw them into the different Channels I point out.

We might, by these Means, see Gentlemen, as well as Manufacturers, in a very few Years well repaid for their Pains, in having their Lands improved and peopled, and our Poor, who are now obliged daily to fly to *England* and *France*, to obtain the common Necessaries of Life, decently cloathed and maintained at home; besides, the secret Satisfaction which must naturally arise in good Minds, from having promoted so sensibly the Wealth, Honour, and Prosperity of their Country.

However, before there can be a Probability of Success in the Introduction of those, or any other Sorts of Linen not common amongst us, some new Statutes must be provided, so as to regulate Workmen, and preserve the Property of the Manufacturer, which at present is on a very precarious Footing. There is a Statute in Force, "Whereby any Person stealing by Day, or Night, the Value of five Shillings or upwards out of a Bleach-yard, of Yarn, or Linen, is guilty of Felony without Benefit of the Clergy." But if a Workman undertaking a Piece from a Manufacturer, carries off, or embezzles the Work entirely, which is frequently the Case, the Remedy to be had is to recover treble the Value from a Wretch who, it is more than probable,

bable, is not worth one Shilling; or, as Magistrates generally order Security to be given, to make good the Damage the Manufacturer has sustained; if the Weaver can be secured who has embezzled the Work, and the Receiver, (who is generally the Principal in the Villainy, and without whom there cannot well be a Thief) is in this very material Case entirely neglected.

This, in Fact, is not a Law provided to secure the Property of the Manufacturer, and remedy the aggrieved; for, where the Trouble and Expence in Recovery is of infinitely more Value than the Damage sustain'd can be supposed commonly to amount to, the Law will never be executed. And this Advantage in Favour of the Weaver, over the Manufacturer, is very well known by all the Linen Weavers in the Kingdom, and is sufficient to vitiate the Principles of this Class of Men, and make even the bad worse.

If the Embezzlement of Yarn or Linen was put on the same footing as stealing it out of a Bleach-yard, and the Receiver made guilty of Felony as well as the Weaver, I am of Opinion it would have the desired Effect, without making above one Example, as I believe has pretty nearly been the Case with respect to stealing out of Bleach-yards, and for an Offence under five Shillings Value, I would recommend the Punishment's being made corporal, (except the Receiver) who I would still have liable at least to Transportation.

Another Grievance the Manufacturer labours under, and particularly all Gentlemen introducing the Linen Manufacture on their Estates, is Combination amongst the Workmen, the Tendency of which is of such dangerous Consequence, that, if not provided against by a Statute, that may put an effectual Stop to such Combinations, it is a Matter of Doubt, what Branches of the Linen Manufacture we may
be

be allowed by the Weavers to carry on the succeeding Year : And I now find this Method of associating and swearing into Combinations, is making its way amongst the Bleachers and Calender-men, or Lappers ; from such Law-givers, what terrible Effects may not be apprehended.

If a Manufacturer wants to engage in any new Branch of the Linen Manufacture, there must first be a Consultation among the Weavers, to know if they will allow him to carry it into Execution ; for, in the southern Provinces, they are to a Man sworn into a Combination to support a Bill of Prices they have made ; and their Method of rating the Prices of Workmanship, is not according to the Quality of the Goods to be made, but to the Demand or Necessity there is for a Quantity.

It is thus that Gentlemens Estates are often robbed of the useful Workmen settled on them, without even the Inhabitants under the same Roof being able to account for it ; and it is thus Manufacturers are often prevented from carrying into Execution, Schemes that might be of the greatest Utility to the Publick.

TO REMEDY WHICH, I would humbly recommend the following Clause being inserted in the next Linen Bill, to stop the present Combinations, as well as prevent the further spreading of them.

THAT any Weaver, Bleacher, Calender-man, or Lapper that acknowledges himself sworn into a Combination, or unlawfully meets with others to settle Prices, or is found in the Mob, on what is deemed by the Linen Weavers a *Turn-out Day*, or collects or pays Money for any such Purpose, shall be liable to six Months Imprisonment and publicly whipt ; and any one putting himself at their Head, and administering an Oath, or being present at, or giving, or any ways aiding, assisting, or requiring

the Oath of any of the aforesaid Workmen, shall be deemed guilty of Felony.

THIS DONE, Manufacturers may carry their Schemes into Execution, without having any more to agree with than the Workmen employed, and without being subject to the Threats and Menaces of Thousands, as is often the Case at present, and the Poor and Industrious will be left at Liberty to work for the Support of their Families, in such Branches of the Manufacture, and for such Prices, as best suit their Purposes, without endangering their Lives by the Insults of lawless Miscreants, as is the general Case now, under Pretence of their working at (what they term) Under-prices.

In

In Relation to BLEACHING and ASHES.

YOUR honourable Board have not been wanting in your Encouragements, to promote the Interest of the Publick in this Particular ; and it must be confessed, the Linen Manufacture has received the greatest Advantages thereby.

I believe we now prepare our Yarn for the Weaver, and bleach our Linens on as cheap Terms as any Country whatsoever ; but this Cheapness is owing to our Conveniencies of Fire and Water, and the many useful Engines invented from Time to Time, that are apparently of the greatest Consequence to the Publick, in expediting our Bleaching and saving Hands ; and it will appear on Inquiry, that this Article will still admit of considerable Improvements in the Materials for Bleaching, and some other Regulations I shall take Notice of.

It is now become a Sort of Maxim amongst Gentlemen, that the first Step to be taken in the Introduction of the Linen Manufacture, in any Part of the Kingdom, is to make a most expensive Bleach-yard, and to have every Part of the Apparatus suited to an extensive Manufacture ; and as it is often the Case, without having either Spinning or Weaving of any Sort fit for Bleaching, or otherwise, carried on in any Part of the Neighbourhood. This Sort of Proceeding (although the Expence is generally placed to your Account) is very detrimental to the Progress of the Linen Manufacture, in the southern Provinces of this Kingdom, as discouraging Circumstances in the first Out-set of any Manufacture, are frequently found to have the worst Consequence in dulling the Edge of Application : Whereas, if attended with Success, it creates an Emulation in others

thers to follow the same laudable Example, and even stimulates the most alert.

A true Knowledge of the Art of Bleaching is easily acquired, and is simply this, to consider well the Quality of your Kelp or Ashes, so as not to overcharge Yarn or Linen with too strong Lees in boiling or bucking; the same Caution is to be observed in Sours, and always prefer a Buttermilk Sour to any other; preserve proper Distances between the Courses of boiling or bucking, so as not to expose Linens to the Weather without Stuff in them; and above all, keep them clean and neat during the whole Operation, there is no farther Mystery necessary among honest Men.

I would therefore recommend to you, to be more sparing in your Bounties for Bleach-yards, unless you are very well satisfied there is a Manufacture set on foot equal to the Improvement required; and the Quality of the Linens made should be inquired into, to know what Improvements there is a Necessity for, as the Misapplication of Rubbing-boards in bleaching the Article of Printers, and many of the lower Branches of the Manufacture, is productive of the worst Consequences to the Kingdom in general; and I should think, an annual attested Return of the Goods, and Quality, whitened in such Bleach-yards as you contribute to, would be very proper, to prevent the Abuse daily committed, in receiving your Bounty for Bleach-yards that are entirely waste, and some of them in Ruins, and strike off those that do not appear deserving.

The Path is very plain, to Men of Experience and Knowledge, that should be pursued in the Article of Bleaching, and by attending to the Rules I lay down in this Article, you will easily perceive where, in my humble Opinion, your Bounty is bestowed to the best Advantage.

That

That Man who has made any new Discovery, in preparing Yarn better, or in a speedier Manner for the Loom, has Merit, and deserves Encouragement.

That Man who discovers any Ashes, Material, or Engine, whereby Linens may be bleached with Safety cheaper, or brought sooner to Market, is likewise well deserving of a Premium; and those, or any other Discoveries that may be of Use to the Public, should be first carefully examined, and if approved made public: * And I cannot omit observing, in this Place, you have granted a Salary for a new Method of preparing Yarn for the Loom, without making use of Ashes; and as this is still kept a Secret by the Proprietor, notwithstanding your Bounty for the Discovery, I apprehend the Salary should be withdrawn.

I do not know any Thing could be more necessary and valuable, at present, in the Linen Manufacture, as all Sorts of Kelp and Ashes we have been accustomed to are adulterated and advanced in Price to an intolerable Degree, than a Discovery of any new and more useful Sort of Ashes, or Material, than what we commonly use.

I have made many Experiments, in boiling with the Ashes of every Country I could procure, and I could find none hitherto so useful and cheap as the *Barilla* of *Spain*: The best Sort of it may be imported here on as easy Terms as the Cashob we commonly use; and by the Accounts I have had this Year from *Spain*, it will be purchased much cheaper as the Crop is plentiful. *Barilla* is in Appearance like Kelp, and cultivated from Seed of the same Name, sown annually, much the same as our Oats here, and gathered in, and burned in a Kiln at a proper Season. There are three Sorts made there, and I have only used the best, and find the Quality of *Barilla* superior to the best Cashob (I could

could procure) almost beyond comparison, as the Cashob gives only a dead Colour, and evidently impairs the Strength of the Yarn; whereas, less than half the Quantity of *Barilla* is sufficient, and it gives a bright silky Whiteness to the Yarn, or Linen, at the same Time preserves Strength, and that mellow Fullness that always attends good Materials, and proper handling.

You have here an Account of *Barilla*, so far as I have been informed from those who have seen it cultivated in *Spain*, joined with my own Experience in the use of it: And I have employed a Friend to procure me some of the Seed, and hope to be able to inform you, next Season, that some Part of this Kingdom may not be an improper Climate to raise it in. But should this last mentioned Attempt fail of Success, it surely is our Interest to encourage the Importation of that Sort of Ashes, which (from Experience) appears to be most deserving and useful, and the Public need only have the Way pointed out to them, and Self-interest will soon enlarge the Channel.

There is another Consideration should weigh with us. The *Spaniards* are very inclinable to promote and encourage our Linen Manufacture, and by taking every Opportunity of cultivating a Correspondence with them, we shall enlarge the Vent of our Linens among them; and it is but too well known, that the Reverse of this Argument will be good against the *Germans*, as they are our greatest and almost only Competitors in the Linen Manufacture. And the Ashes we import from the different Parts of *Germany*, and the *East* Country, are not only advanced in Price, but adulterated and depreciated in Quality, insomuch, that they are become less portable to the inland Parts of the Country, and in many Respects useless; and our own People, and the *Scots*, from whence we get our
Kelp,

Kelp, have followed the Example of the *Germans* so effectually as to render it almost useless to the Bleachers, by the extraordinary Quantity of Sand and Stones mixed with it.

I cannot, however, omit one thing that occurs to me. Was there a small Premium published, annually, (suppose 20 *l.*) to be given to the Person who should make the most useful Discovery in Bleaching, we might, perhaps, have some greater Improvements made in this Article, both in respect to Expedition and Cheapness.

There might be a large Field of Improvement opened, by procuring a Statute for the free Importation of Ashes from *North America*, as thereby we should be enabled to procure the Ashes cheaper, and assist the Inhabitants in improving the Country by cutting down the Woods, and, at the same Time, extend the Vent of our Linens amongst them

Upon the whole of this Article of Bleaching, I don't see any Scheme can be proposed in procuring Ashes, but is more promising and advantageous to the Public, than that we at present encourage and pursue.

In Relation to C O R D A G E.

IT may be thought unnecessary in me to make any Observation on this Article, but I am satisfied the pointing out any Particular that may advantage the Public, and add to your Fund, will be well received.

In the fourth Year of the Reign of King *George the First*, there was a Clause enacted in the Linen-Bill (to continue in full force for seven Years) laying an additional Duty of five Shillings *per* hundred, over and above the then and present Duty, on all Cordage, or Twine, imported, (except of the Manufacture of *Great Britain*) the Duty arising therefrom, to be applied to the Encouragement of the hempen and flaxen Manufactures of this Kingdom, which Clause was not since revived.

And, in Consequence thereof, there has been a large Import of Foreign Cordage into this Kingdom, to the Detriment of the Public, without the Linen Manufacture receiving any Advantage therefrom.

I believe reviving the same Clause next Session of Parliament will be a sufficient Remedy, and I am of Opinion it will be thought expedient to extend the Clause before-mentioned respecting Combinations to Rope-makers, Flax, and Hemp-Dressers.

The CONCLUSION.

I Have now given a cursory View of the different Transitions through which the Linen Manufacture is conducted, with such Remarks on the several Parts as I apprehend require Amendment : and, was I capable of representing the Importance of those Alterations in such Manner as their Necessities require, you would be astonished at the supine and dormant Disposition of those immediately interested in the Manufacture, which may proceed from an Opinion I know prevails amongst many, that we may extend our Linen Manufacture, beyond the Consumption that can be expected for it Abroad ; and some even go so far as to say, it is done already.

These Sort of Inuendo's (however meant) are destructive Maxims to infuse in the Minds of the People in this Kingdom, as they have a most dangerous Tendency to dull the Edge of Industry, which it's but too obvious requires the contrary Spirit to prevail.

It is easy to confute such Opinions by having recourse to Reason and Facts. Our Exports in Linens are not yet computed at so much as one Million yearly, and the Consumption of *England*, by the Weekly Observations of the *Dublin Society*, Number 7, is accounted to be four Millions a Year in Linen, allowing 10s. *per* Head ; and this will be thought still more moderate, when it is considered, that the Number of Inhabitants in *England*, by the latest Surveys, are computed at twelve Millions, which must add two Millions more to the Amount of their Consumption, on the same reasonable Computation.

It's true, there is a very considerable Linen Manufacture carried on in *England*, but I do not think
their

their own Manufacture will exceed, in Amount, their yearly Exports of Linens to the Plantations and elsewhere: Hence we may conclude, that our Exports in Linens are not yet sufficient to supply a fourth Part of the Consumption of *England*, nor indeed do I believe a Sixth.

It is a Manufacture we have all the Advantages in, that it is possible for the most sanguine Friend of *Ireland* to pencil to himself. It is free from all Duties both at Home and throughout his Majesty's Dominions. It is peculiarly adapted to the Nature of our Climate from the Conveniencies of Fire and Water with which we abound, and particularly from the native Usefulness of our own Flax, as I set forth under the said Article.

And the principal Obstacles that appear to me, at present, to impede the Progress of the Linen Manufacture, in most Branches, are the Want of a sufficient Quantity of Flax of our own Growth to supply our Consumption, and making the pretended Mystery of a Weaver a less penetrable Secret, but particularly in the coarse, and more bulky Way, which is the more desirable to encourage, as it is the easiest executed, as well as the most extensive and useful Part.

By doing so, it would employ and provide for the Poor, increase the Number of industrious Inhabitants, improve our Lands, and add to our Wealth.

The Linen Manufacture of this Kingdom is the most interesting for us to encourage, had we a free Export even for our Woollen Manufacture into *England*; for this Reason, the Duties paid at present, by the *Germans* and *Dutch*, on their Linens imported into *England*, are computed at 22 *per Cent.* on average, which tho' imposed from time to time, to supply the Exigencies of State, as it cannot be supposed the Inhabitants of *England* would tax themselves so much on our particular Accounts; yet,
however,

however, as our Linens are imported free into *England*, it certainly creates a Monopoly in our Favour, if by a timely Application we could be persuaded to make use of these Advantages we are possessed of. And whenever such Part of the National Debt is paid off, as has its Interest secured by those Duties, we must then expect to lose those Advantages: therefore to make use of an old Phrase, (let us make Hay whilst the Sun shines) for if we don't now establish ourselves in every Branch of the Linen Manufacture we are capable of, Posterity may justly accuse us of having betrayed our Trust, as they will find it a Task impracticable to beat the *Germans* out, when on an equal Footing, which may one Day be the Case, and particularly in the coarser Branches, on which the Duties paid by them in *England* at present fall heaviest.

Well-disposed Premiums (there is no doubt) will Spirit up the Public to Industry and Application, and Industry and Application will surmount all Difficulties; but there should be the greatest Care constantly taken, lest a Monopoly be thrown into the Hands of any Individuals; of which some Instances may be produced, thereby leaving the most Ingenious and Industrious unrewarded.

Suitable Encouragements, conducted with that Care their Importance to the Public require, must be productive of every useful Improvement that could be wished.

Experience shews what surprizing Advantages Arts and Sciences have received from Honours and Rewards conferred with Judgment, in former as well as latter Ages: And you, Gentlemen, have the Means provided by the Legislature, in such a way as is suited to the noble Design.

I have here represented to you some of those Alterations, that appear to me deserving of your most
C immediate

immediate Care, and I could advance many Arguments, perhaps some more cogent than those made use of, to enforce the Necessity of your Aid in executing them; but having the highest Sense of your ready Attention to whatever tends to promote the public Utility, shall conclude here, and hope, if I may have appeared too free in giving my Opinion on any particular Head, that a true Zeal for the Welfare of my Country, and the Honour and Influence of your Honourable Board, will be allowed to plead in my Favour.

AN
INQUIRY
INTO THE
State *and* Progress
OF THE
LINEN MANUFACTURE
OF
IRELAND.

THE present unhappy Circumstances of this Kingdom, both with Regard to Trade and the common Necessaries of Life, present an Opportunity to Men of Experience and Knowledge of becoming serviceable to their Country, by pointing out wherein publick Encouragements have been misconducted, and offering such Plans for Improvement, as may be reasonable and useful.

When Danger was lately apprehended to the Liberties of this Kingdom, Numbers appeared on each Side, to prove or disprove any thing that could be offered. Would some of the most dis-

cerning of those Gentlemen consider, that the Out-Lines are scarce worth defending, where the Garriſon is ready to deſert for want of the common Neceſſaries of Life, they muſt think the preſent as laudable an Occaſion of appearing in Public, as any they have taken heretofore.

The various Boards and Societies inſtituted in this Kingdom for its Improvement, and the ample Proviſion of the Legiſlature, with other Donations for their Support, muſt induce Strangers to believe, that we ſhould have at this Day, the moſt improved and beſt employed and peopled Country in *Europe*; yet, how unfortunate are we that poſſeſs thoſe Advantages but in the leaſt Degree, except by Representations of Almanacks and News Papers.

It is to be feared the ill judged Policy of this Kingdom, in placing the moſt eſſential Truſts, in reſpect to Trade, in unexperienced and inattentive Hands, hath often given room for Miſapplication; but as Obſervations, ſupported by Reaſon and by Facts, are the only certain Methods to inform and convince the Public, I ſhall no longer detain the Reader.

The Linen Manufacture of this Kingdom is deſervedly the firſt Object of national Concern; the State and Progreſs of which ſhall be the Subject of my preſent Inquiry; and in order to repreſent it in the cleareſt View, it will be neceſſary to have Retrospect to the earlieſt Accounts we have of its being conſidered of Conſequence in this Kingdom, and from thence by obſerving the different Laws made for the Encouragement thereof, and other Circumſtances that may be collected, it will be poſſible to form a tolerable Idea of the State of the Manufacture at 1710, when the Linen Board was inſtituted under an Act of Parliament; and that the Public may the better judge of its Progreſs, and the Merits of the Different Schemes
and

and Encouragements of the Trustees; it will be necessary to give the Substance of the Statutes of, most Consequence and when enacted, and what the Linen Funds have amounted to from 1710 to the present Time, distinguishing such Part thereof as hath been appropriated, and for what Purposes. And in the next Place, the Journal of an Inspection made into the present State of the Linen Manufacture, by Order of the Linen Board in 1755, will properly come before the Public, as from thence and such other Materials as are in the Author's Possession, I believe it will be possible to present such Remarks to the Public, with regard to the Distribution of the Linen Fund, as may, (if attended to) advantage the Kingdom in general for the future.

The first time we find the Linen Manufacture of this Kingdom become an Object of Concern to the Legislature, is in the Year 1542, being the 33d of *Henry VIII.* when it appears, that in an Act made against Grey Merchants Forefalling, Linen and Linen Yarn were then the most considerable Manufactures and Trade of Consequence among the Natives of this Kingdom. And in the 11th Year of *Queen Elizabeth*, the same Act was revived, and a further Law made against watering Flax or Hemp in Rivers, &c.

In the 13th Year of *Queen Elizabeth*, all Persons were prohibited from exporting the Produce of the Kingdom, viz. Wool, Linen Yarn, &c. except Merchants residing in Cities and Boroughs. And the same Year a farther Act was made, for the Employment of the Inhabitants, and encouraging the manufacturing of Linen, by fixing a Penalty of 12d. per Pound, on all Flax or Linen Yarn exported, and 8d. per Pound more for the Use of the City or Town exported from.

In the Reign of *Charles I.* in 1634, by Order of the House of Commons, a Petition of Remonstrance was exhibited to the Lord Deputy, for Liberty of Exportation of all Commodities into other Kingdoms, except Wool and Wool Fells, and those only to *England*.

And the same Year a Bill was read twice, intituled an Act for the freedom of working the Materials of this Kingdom into Manufactures within the said Realm, was committed to a Committee, and dropped by Order, 17 April 1635.

In 1640, a Bill was brought in to repeal Part of a Statute of the 11th and 13th of *Elizabeth*, concerning the Exportation of Commodities; and the same Year a Complaint was made by the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses of *Conaught* and *Ulster*, concerning Yarn and Linen Cloth.

In 1641, the Proclamations of the late Lord Lieutenant, touching Linen Yarn, dated the 31st of May, and 31st of Jan. 1636, and the Warrants and Proceedings held thereon, were voted by the House of Commons general Grievances, and the Agents and Instruments in said Grievances voted to *Newgate*, and a Conference desired with the Lords, in order to prevent the like Inconveniencies for the future.

Likewise in 1641, a Warrant signed by the late Lord Deputy, 4 Janu. 1636, touching Linen Yarn, and the Proceedings thereupon were voted Grievances to the Subject, and against the Laws of the Land.

And it may not be improper to insert here the 13th Article of Impeachment brought against Lord *Strafford*, viz. ' That Flax being one of the principal and native Commodities of *Ireland*, the said Earl having got great Quantities thereof into his Hands, and growing on his own Lands, did issue out several Proclamations, prescribing and enjoin-

ing the working of Flax into Yarn and Thread, and the ordering of the same in such Ways; wherein the Natives of that Kingdom were unpracticed, and unskilful, and the Flax wrought or ordered in other Manner than as the said Proclamation prescribed, was seized and employed to the use of him and his Agents; and thereby the said Earl did gain, in Effect, the sole Sale of that native Commodity.

In Lord *Strafford's* Answer to this Article, it appears, that he imported Flax-seed from the Low-Countries, and sold it at first Cost to such as desired it; that our Linens were not made above a Foot broad, and our Linen Yarn wound from many Bottoms together; that the Flax of this Kingdom was not above a Foot long, whereas the Flax produced from his Seed became a Yard in Length, and our Soil fit to bear it, and the People love such easy Works, he set up many Looms, made much Cloth, and sold it to the Loss of some thousands of Pounds; but when the State saw the Natives would not change their old Courses for new and better, the Proclamation was declined; what he did, was for the publick Good, and had nothing from them that was not fully paid for.

In the Reign of *Charles II.* 1661, the Committee of Trade took into their Consideration, Ways and Means, by which the Trade of this Kingdom may be most effectually advanced.

And an Act passed for settling the Subsidy of Poundage, and granting a Subsidy of Tunnage upon Merchandizes, imported and exported, into or out of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, commencing the 1st Day of *December* 1661, is for the better guarding and defending of the Seas, against all Persons intending, or that may intend the Disturbance of the Intercourse of Trade of this Realm, and for the better defraying the necessary Expences thereof.

By the Book of Rates, settled for Payment of Duties in this Year, Linen Yarn is valued at 20*l.* the Pack, containing 400 Weight, at 6 Score to the Hundred, which being 10*d.* per Pound, is about the same Value on Average of the Yarn we export to *England* at this Day; but the Linen is valued very low, being only 5*s.* for 40 Ells fine or coarse; whereas the worst Bundle Linen, according to the Valuation set on the Yarn, is worth 2*d.* or 2*d.* halfpenny per Yard.

In 1662, An Act was* made for encouraging Protestant Strangers to inhabit and plant in this Kingdom, for the Improvement of Manufactures, and Flax, Hemp and Linen Yarn are then considered among the Materials and principal Commodities of this Kingdom.

The 26th Sept. 1662, Ordered by the House of Commons, that the Particulars reported by the Committee of Trade, in order to the Improvement of the Manufactory of Linen Cloth in this Kingdom, be referred to a Committee, to model them into Heads for a Bill, and present them to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, to be transmitted during the Adjournment of both Houses; and this Bill was prepared, and received the Royal Assent, 18 June 1666, laying Penalties that were afterwards thought oppressive, and therefore this Act was repealed the 4th of Queen Anne, Cap. 3.

In 1697, 21st Sept. in the Reign of King William, the first Steps were taken towards forming a Society of such Persons as were best qualified to superintend the Linen Manufacture, by an Order of the Commons, that the Knights, &c. of the several Counties and Boroughs in this Kingdom, do nominate and bring in the Names of such Persons as they shall think fit to be Presidents of the several Corporations

* A Bill for naturalizing the whole *Scottish Nation*, was read once in the Parliament, in 1634, in Charles II's Reign.

tions in their respective Counties, for the Encouragement of the Linen and Hempen Manufacture.

It appears that Bills were brought into the House in 1697 and 1698, to have further Laws made for encouraging the Linen Manufacture, but were not passed into Laws.

In this Parliament an additional Duty was laid on *Irish* Woollen Manufactures exported, and enforced by a Letter from the Lords Justices, by his Majesty's Commands; the additional Duty commenced 25 Mar. 1699, and to continue in Force to 25 Mar. 1702, amounting to 4s. on every 20s. Value of Broad Cloth of *Irish* Manufacture exported, and 2s. on every 20s. Value exported on all Serges, Bays, Kerseys, Stuffs, or any other Sort of new Drapery made of Wool, or mixed with Wool (Frises only excepted.)

At this Time the Linen Manufacture was recommended to the Legislative Body of this Kingdom, and a Patent was granted, commencing 25 Mar. 1700, by King *William* of Glorious Memory, to a Colony of *French* Protestants, who were to settle in this Kingdom, and instruct the Inhabitants thereof in the Hempen and Linen Manufactures, in which Patent among other Regulations, it is directed, that 380*l.* should be paid yearly in Salaries to several of the said Colonies, and 800*l.* as Bounty Money for Linens by them made, according to Regulations appointed by the said Trustees. His Majesty died about two Years and a Quarter after the Patent commenced; and the Produce of that Patent, being 2655*l.* will be accounted for among other Sums, before the Commencement of the present Linen Board in 1710.

On Queen *Anne*'s Accession to the Throne, a second Patent was granted, to continue for the Space of ten Years; whereby the Bounty

was

was to extend to the Natives of this Kingdom, with Liberty for the Trustees to do and act as they should think proper, and the said 1180*l.* *per Annum*, was ordered to be placed on the Establishment.

The Produce of this Patent will likewise be accounted for with the former.

In 1703, Nov. 23. an Address of the House of Commons to obtain Liberty for exporting our Linens directly to the Plantations, agreeable to the Encouragement given by King *William*, was presented to be transmitted to the Queen.

In this Reign there were several Laws made for improving the Manufactures, some of which I shall note.

The first is in the 4th of Queen *Anne*, after repealing those of the 17th and 18th of King *Charles* II. an Act was passed to oblige all Persons to make their Yarn statuteable Length and Count, and to compel the Dealers to make all Linen at least Twenty two Inches and a Half wide or to be forfeited, on account of the manifest Loss arising to the Linen Trade, by their being made of such Denominations in the Length and Breadth, as make them unfit either for Foreign or Home Consumption.— Granting to Weavers Freedoms, exempting Foreigners from Toll, and Pot-ashes, Weed-ashes, Hemp-Seed, Looms *, and Flax-Seed of *Holland*, *Russia*, and *Muscovy* imported, and Flaxen or Hempen Cloth exported free from Duties for ever ; the Use of Lime in Bleaching prohibited, and the Statute Yard containing 36 Inches (except in measuring fine Linens, in Imitation of *Hollands*) ordered to be the Measure used, and in measuring Hol-

* The Importation of Flax-seed from *North America*, was not then customary, or expected, or there is no Doubt, but it would have been exempted from Duty on Importation in the same Clause.

Hollands the Ell, and many other Regulations, as by said Act more fully appears.

The 8th of Queen *Anne*, for the better encouraging the Importation of Foreign Flax-seed, five Shillings *per* Hogshead Bounty, was granted on all Flax-seed imported of the Growth of *Russia*, *Germany*, the *Netherlands* or East Country.

1707. July 23, A Petition of *Louis Crommelin*, praying his and the *French Colonies* (concerned in the Manufacture) Service, may be taken into Consideration, and representing its great Improvement.

1707. Aug. 2. A Resolution of the House against farther Duty on Cordage, Sail Yarn, or Twine, until such time as there be sufficient Store of Hemp, of the Growth of this Kingdom, raised to supply the Necessities of Navigation, and other Uses.

Aug. 14. An humble Address resolved on, that her Majesty will be pleased graciously to interpose in their Favour, that for the Encouragement of the Linen Manufacture in this Kingdom, the Term for exporting Linen Cloth to the Plantations be enlarged.

In 1708, for the better encouraging the Importation of Hemp-seed a Bounty of 5s. *per* Hogshead was granted on Importation for nine Years, commencing 24 Dec. 1707, and the Premium on Sail Cloth exported of 2d. *per* Yard between 10d. and 14d. in Value, and 4d. *per* Yard on the Value of 14d. and upwards, as it now stands, granted the 6th and 9th of Queen *Anne*, commencing at the same time. And a Premium of 2s. 6d. *per* Ton on making Kelp, in any Counties joining the Sea, to be apportioned and levied in each County where Kelp is made, by the Grand Jury, as other County Taxes; and Houses of Correction ordered to be enlarged for dressing Hemp and Flax, at the Charge of each County respectively, before 29 Sept. 1708, and three Overseers thereof to be named by the Grand Jury.

Jury at the Summer Assizes, the Overseers to continue for one Year only.

1708, In this Session * Spinning Schools were first appointed in each County, and Payment ordered for them and the Work-houses as follows, to commence the 29 Sept. 1708, and continue for seven Years.

For the first Year 32 Masters
of Work-houses, at 20*l.* each,
and obliged to apply Part of
the Money in sowing Flax,
amounting to 640 0 0

32 Mistresses at 10*l.* each,
to apply Part in buying
Wheels and Reels, and to
teach at least 20 Scholars *gratis* if they offer, Amount to 320 0 0

Total first Year 960 0 0

For the second Year 32 Masters at
10*l.* and 32 Mistresses at 6*l.* are *per Ann.* 512 0 0

To the same number for five Years
more, at 512*l.* *per Ann.* 2560 0 0

Total for the seven Years 4032 0 0

The above Sums were ordered by the Act to be paid by the Collector of the District, to such Overseers as the Grand Jury at the Summer Assizes should appoint, or to their Order, to be applied to the above Uses.

In
* In 1709, the Houses for dressing Hemp and Flax, and Spinning Schools, were extended to all Counties of Cities and Counties of Towns, with the same Salaries and under the same Restrictions.

In 1709, A Premium of 5 s. *per* Hogshead, was granted on Flax-seed imported from the *East* Country, and a Penalty of 50 s. inflicted on any Weaver (being a Native) that has not served five Years Apprenticeship, as a Linen Weaver, and two Years as a Sail Cloth Weaver, and not having wrought at the Flaxen Trade two Years as a Journeyman, on setting up for himself, or keeping a Loom, and working on it himself, and in Case of no Distress, to be committed to the House of Correction for a Month.

1709, May 26. A Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to inspect the State of the Linen Manufacture, to whom the Bounty Money hath been disposed, &c. Report as follows, *viz.*

An Account of the Money received and expended by the honourable the Trustees for the Management of the Linen Manufacture in *Ireland*, from the 25th of *March* 1700, to the 25th of *December* 1708.

Received by Patent granted by King *William* of Glorious Memory, beginning the 25th of *March* 1700, and ending the 24th of *June* 1702, being 2½ Years at 1180 l. *per Annum* £ 2655 0 0

Payments on this Account.

	l.	s.	d.
1700. September 7th, paid			
by Warrant	100	0	0
December 16, paid			
the French Colony	200	0	0
			1701

1701. August 2, paid by
Warrant

44 0 0

January 14, paid
to the French
Colony

213 0 0

1704. December 23, paid
by a special
Warrant by the
Queen's Letter
to Louis Crom-
melin, as Over-
seer of the Linen
Manufacture

470 12 0

1027 12 0

Remains in the Treasury

1627 8 0

£ 2655 0 0

N. B. This Account was taken from the Auditor-
General's Account; the Clerk to the Trustees, being
in England, and it appears the French Colony are
then paid in full of all Salaries and Bounty Money
for said two Years and Quarter.

Received by Patent from Queen

Anne, for ten Years, at £ 1180
per Annum, of which 6½ Years
ended the 25th of Decem. 1708

7670 0 0

Paid from 1704, to 1708, to the
French Colony at Lisburn, for the
Interests of their Advances, as par-
ticularized in the Journals

2457 12 11¼

Paid in 1705, to 1708, towards a
Manufacture at Rathkeil, to Sir
Thomas Sourbwell, a Clerk, and As-

sistant,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Assistant, Hemp Dresser, <i>Dutchman</i> , <i>&c.</i> as per Journals	890	8	8½
Paid in 1704, to 1708, towards a Ma- nufacture at <i>Killkenny</i> , to <i>William</i> <i>Crommelin</i> a Salary, Factory, Inter- est of Work, <i>&c.</i> as per Ditto	451	6	7½
Paid in 1705-6, to 1708, Ditto, at <i>Strabane</i> , to <i>John Henderson</i>	180	11	3½
Paid in 1707 to 1708 at <i>Cootehill</i> , to <i>John Frazer</i>	18	0	5½
Paid in 1705, to 1708, to Flax Dref- sers, Reed-makers, and <i>Louis</i> <i>Crommelin</i> , Assistants, and <i>French</i> Minister	2225	0	0
In 1707, to the Manufacture at <i>Castle-</i> <i>sbane</i> , to Mr. <i>Lucas</i>	12	17	9
1708, To Ditto, at <i>Monaghan</i> , to <i>Albrough Wrightson</i>	9	14	0½
1708, To Ditto, at <i>Muff</i> , in the County of <i>London-derry</i> , to <i>J.</i> <i>Stuart</i>	11	15	0½
To <i>John Parkinson</i> , at <i>Lisburn</i>	24	16	7½
1708, To <i>Fuller</i> at <i>Kinnegad</i>	8	4	2½
1704, to 1708, Paid incident Charges as per Journals is particularized, for a Copper Plate, the Patent, Secre- tary, Messenger, Treasury Fees, <i>Thomas Turner</i> of <i>Lurgan</i> , for buy- ing Flax-seed, * printing <i>Louis</i> <i>Crommelin's</i> Books, an insolvent Flax Dresser, <i>&c.</i>	993	4	2½

OF

* Printing those Books at this Time cost 55*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* and were reprinted in 1734, by Order of the Board, at nearly as great an Expence; the Substance thereof is given in this Number, to shew its Importance to the Publick.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Of which paid in Salaries, Bounty Money, &c. as above	7283	12	0½
Ballance yet due	386	7	11½

Pensions paid the *French* Colony at *Lisburn*.

1704-5, February 16, Paid to <i>Louis</i> <i>Crommelin</i> for three Years	600	0	0
To the <i>French</i> Minister for two Years	120	0	0

I have been the more particular in the foregoing Report, as it will be necessary hereafter in stating the Debt of the Linen Board, to have Recourse to this, and subsequent Reports of the Honourable House of Commons, and to make some Comparisons between them and the Trustees present Method in accounting with the Publick.

And it may be acceptable to the Reader, as well as pertinent to the INQUIRY, to give the Substance of Sir *William Temple's* Essay upon the Advancement of Trade in *Ireland*, so far as it relates to the Linen Manufacture, written at the Request of the Earl of *Essex*, then Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, dated *Dublin* the 22d of *July*, 1673.

After his premising that the true and natural ground of Trade and Riches, is Numbers of People in proportion to the compass of Ground they inhabit, which makes all things necessary to Life dear, and that forces Men to Industry, and Parsimony; and those Customs which grow first from Necessity, become in time habitual in a Country.

He observes that the want of Trade in *Ireland*, proceeds from the want of People, and that not owing

ing to any bad Qualities of the Climate, but chiefly to the frequent Revolutions, of Wars and Rebellions, the great Slaughters and Calamities of Mankind, that have at different Intervals succeeded the Reduction of this Kingdom in *Henry* the Second's Time, until the Year 1653, and two very great Plagues following the two great Wars, viz. those of Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign, and the last, about 1662, which helped to drain the Country of its Inhabitants.

The Discredit which the Constitution and Settlements of this Kingdom hath acquired by the frequent and unhappy Revolutions, that for many Ages have infested it, hath discouraged other Nations from transplanting themselves hither, and prevailed further than all the Invitations which the Cheapness and Plenty of the Country afforded, and had it not been for the Numbers of the *British*, which the Necessity of the late Wars at first drew over, and of such who either as Adventurers or Soldiers, seated themselves here upon account of the Satisfaction made to them in Land, the Country had been left in a Manner desolate, by the last War and Plague.

And that the perpetual Agencies or Journeys into *England*, of all Persons that had any considerable Pretensions in *Ireland*, and many Times their long Abodes, and habituating of Families there, altho' they have no Money to support them, but what is drawn out of *Ireland*, besides the young Gentlemen go of Course there for their Education, some for their Health, and others for their Entertainment, by which Means great Sums of Money are annually spent in *England* by the most Wealthy *Irish* Families, which the great Stock of rich Native Commodities, can with Difficulty support.

D And

And further observes that those Circumstances so prejudicial to the Increase of Trade and Riches in a Country, seem natural, or at least have ever been incident to the Government here, otherwise the Fertility of our Soil and Seas in so many rich Commodities, improved by Multitude of People and Industry, with the Advantage of so many excellent Havens, so well situated for all sorts of foreign Trade, must have rendered this Kingdom one of the richest in *Europe*, and made a mighty Encrease both of Strength and Wealth to the Crown of *England*.

He then goes on by assigning Reasons for the great Scarcity of Money complain'd of at that Time in this Kingdom, the Principal of which are as follow ; that by the Act against Transportation of live Cattle into *England*, the Trade of this Country which ran wholly thither before, was turned very much into foreign Parts, and *England* being at this time engaged in a War with the *Dutch*, * their Privateers being in great Numbers about our Coasts, and the want of *English* Frigates to secure our Trade, diminish'd the Stock of the Kingdom greatly, by the Captures made ; notwithstanding which, they were obliged to continue their foreign Trade, the Vent for their live Cattle not being opened again, and scarcely Vent for any of their Commodities in *England*, except Wool ; from these Circumstances, and the Continuance of expensive Living, and the Import of Luxuries, our Money had been carried to *England* to supply the

* This was one of the Inducements our Legislature had for granting the ample Provision under the Title of Tonnage and Poundage, for the better guarding the Seas and Protection of our Trade, *Vide* page (39). This Subsidy appropriated for this particular use, (I believe) will be found to produce nearly two Thirds of what is known by the Title of the Hereditary Revenue.

the Latter, without our having Exports to counterballance it.

After reciting in what respects the Trade of a Country admits of Improvement, he enumerates the native Commodities or common easy Manufactures which are exported from this Kingdom, which consequently furnish the Stock of foreign Commodities consumed in the Country, and the current Cash, and are as follow, * Wool, Butter, Beef, Cattle, Fish, Iron ; and observes that by Improvement of these either in the Quantity, Credit, or further Manufacture, the Trade of *Ireland* seems chiefly to be advanced.

In this Survey he observes, one thing must be taken notice of, as peculiar to this Country, that as in the Nature of its Government, so in the very improvement of its Trade and Riches, it ought to be considered not only in its own proper Interest, but likewise in its Relation to *England*, to which it is subordinate, and upon whose Weal in the Main, that of this Kingdom depends ; and therefore a Regard must be had to those Points wherein the Trade of *Ireland* comes to interfere with any main Branches of the Trade of *England*, in which Cases the Encouragement of such Trade, ought to be either declined or moderated, and so give way

D 2 to

* Flax or Linen Yarn not being enumerated among those Exports, it's probable the almost continued Rebellions and Wars in the Kingdom, followed by the Plague, (from the Time the Taxes which amounted to a Prohibition imposed the 13th of Queen *Elizabeth* Vide page (37) were taken off in the 16th of *Charles I.*) had prevented the Natives from extending their Views beyond their own Consumption, as by that Statute they had been at this Time deprived of Liberty to export their Flax and Linen Yarn near a hundred Years, and it will appear in this Essay, that the narrow Breadth of their Linens intirely prevented their being exported to foreign Markets.

to the Interest of Trade in *England*, upon the Health and Vigour whereof, the Strength, Riches, and Glory of his Majesty's Crowns, seem chiefly to depend ; but on the other Side, such Branches of Trade ought not wholly to be suppressed, but rather so far admitted, as may serve the general Consumption of this Kingdom, least by too great an Importation of Commodities, though out of *England* it self, this Kingdom may be so drained of its Money, as not to leave Stock sufficient for carrying on Trade, the Effect whereof would be general Discontents among the People, Complaints or ill Impressions of Government, which in a Country composed of three several Nations, different to a great Degree in Language, Customs and Religion, as well as Interests, (both of Property and Dependencies) may prove not only dangerous to this Kingdom, but to *England* itself.

He next takes notice of the Quantity and Quality of our Wool, and observes that the Country is full stock'd with Sheep, and cleared of Wolves, and all the considerable Flocks, of *English* Breed, and the Staple of Wool, generally equal with that of *Northampton*, or *Leicestershire* ; and our Soil little subject to other Rotts than Hunger ; that the Improvement of this Commodity in *Ireland* wou'd give so great a Damp to the Trade of *England* (of which Cloths, Stuffs and Stockings make so mighty a Part) that it seems not fit to be encouraged here, further than to such a Quantity of one or two *Summer* Stuffs, *Irish* Frize and Cloth from six Shillings to fourteen, as may supply in some Measure, the ordinary Consumption of the Kingdom ; and further observes that, that which seems most necessary in this Branch, is the careful Execution of the Statutes provided against Exportation of the Wool of this Kingdom, to any other Parts than
England,

England, least it should occasion a most sensible Decay, if not Destruction of Manufactures both here and in *England*.

He next takes notice, that Linen Yarn is a Commodity very proper for this Country, but made in no great Quantities in any Parts, besides the *North*, nor any where into Linen to any great Degree, or of sorts fit for the better Uses at Home, or Exportation Abroad, altho' of all others, this ought most to be encouraged, and was therefore chiefly designed by the Earl of *Strafford*; the Soil produces Flax kindly and well, and fine too, answerable to the Care used in the choice of Seed and Exercise of Husbandry.

He then proceeds to shew the fitness of this Manufacture, for the Natives who were unaccustomed to Labour and Industry, from the lightness of the Work, in all its Branches, and is certain of its being capable of Improvement, so as to beat both the *French* and *Dutch*, out of the *English* Markets, without crossing any Interest of Trade in *England*, and observes farther, that the Soil and Climate are proper for whitening both by the Frequency of Brooks, and also of Winds in the Country.

Much Pains had been spent upon this Design in an Act of Parliament, passed the last Session, the 18th of *Charles* the Second; but the too great Rigour imposed on sowing of certain Quantities of Flax-seed, hath caused (and perhaps justly) a general Neglect in the Execution, and the Money applied by that Act to the Encouragement of making fine Linen, and Broad, (which he thinks is Twenty Pounds every Year in each County) tho' the Institution was good, has not produced the desired Effect, by encouraging any considerable Application that Way, so that sometimes one share of

the Money is paid to a single Claimant, at the Assizes or Sessions, and sometimes a Share is saved for want of any Claimant.

And further he observes, that this Trade may be advanced by some Amendments to the last Act, in another Session, whereby the Necessity of sowing Flax may be so limited, as to be made easily practicable, and so may be forced by the Severity of levying the Penalties enacted. For the Money allotted in the Counties, no Person ought to carry the First, Second or Third Prize, without producing two Pieces of Linen of each Sort, (whereas only one is necessary now.) And severe Penalties may be made against weaving any Linen under a certain Breadth, such as may be of more use to the poorest People, and of the coarsest Livers, than the Narrow *Irish* Cloth; and may bear some Price abroad, whenever more comes to be made, than is consumed at Home. But after all those, or such like Provisions, he observes, there are but two Things which can make any extraordinary Advance in this Branch of Trade, and those are, First, an Increase of People in the Country, to such a Degree, as may make Things necessary to Life dear, and thereby force general Industry from each Member of a Family (Women as well as Men) and in as many sorts as they can well turn to, which among others may in Time, come to run the Vein this Way. The Second is a particular Application in the Government, and this must be made either by some Governor on his own private Account, invited by the expectation of Gains, or by the Honour of bringing to pass, a Work of such publick Utility, to both *England* and *Ireland*, (and he supposes both those Circumstances concurred in the Earl of *Strafford's* Design) and whenever they meet again, can have no better Copy to follow in
all

all Particulars, than that begun at the *Naas* in his Time. Or by a considerable Sum of Money being set apart out of his Majesty's present Revenue, or some future Subsidies to be granted for this Occasion: And this either to be employed in setting up some great Linen Manufacture in some certain Place, and to be managed by fit Hands for making fine Linnens and Sail Cloths too, the Benefit or Loss of such a Trade, to be placed to account of Government, until it gains a Footing in the Nation. Or shou'd this seem too great an Undertaking for the present Age, to keep such a Sum of Money ready in Hands, appointed by the Government, for taking off at common moderate Prices, all such Pieces of Cloth as shall be brought in by any Persons, at certain Times, to the chief Town of each County, and all such Pieces of Cloth as are fit for Sails, to be carried into the Stores of the Navy. All that are fit for the Army, to be given the Soldiers (as Clothes are) in part of their Pay: And all finer Pieces to be sold, and the Money still applied to the Encrease or constant Supply of the main Stock. The Effect hereof, wou'd be, that People finding a certain Market for this Commodity, and that of others so uncertain as it is in this Kingdom, wou'd turn so much of their Industry this Way, as wou'd serve to furnish a great Part of that Money, which is most absolutely necessary, for Payment of Taxes, Rents, or Subsistence of Families.

He recommends, if the King should give leave, to the Merchants in eight or ten of the chief trading Ports of *Ireland*, to name for each Town, one of their Number, out of which the Lord Lieutenant shou'd chuse two, to be of the Privy Council of *Ireland*, with a certain Salary from the King

to defray their Attendance: This wou'd be an Honour and Encouragement to so worthy a Calling, and wou'd introduce an Interest of Trade into the Council, which being now wholly composed of the Nobility or Gentry, the Civil or Military Officers; the Traders seem to be left without Patrons in the Government, and thereby without Favour to the particular Concernments of a chief Member in the Politick Body, and upon whose prospering, the Wealth of the whole Kingdom seems chiefly to depend.

I have now given the Substance of this Essay, so far as it relates to the present Purpose, there are contained in it many other Schemes, for the Improvement of *Ireland*, and this most discerning Author seems to have had no other Views than to promote the Honour and Interest of his Majesty's Dominions, and the good of Mankind; and as his Schemes have been partly adopted, I shall only observe at present, that notwithstanding the Necessaries of Life are grown so dear in many Parts of the Kingdom, (which was the principal Desire of the Author towards extending it's Trade) that the Natives for want of Employment are forced to fly to other Countries for Support; yet it will appear that the Linen Board never have taken one Step towards encouraging them to make their Linen (called by Sir *William Temple*, *Irish* Cloth, but commonly Bandle Linen, which is about fourteen Inches wide) of such Breadth as to be fit for Exportation.

I shall in the next Place give you the Substance of an Essay, towards improving the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures of *Ireland*, by *Louis Crommelin*, Overseer of the Royal Linen Manufacture of this Kingdom, printed in *Dublin*, in the Year, 1705.

C H A P. I.

TH E Author in his Introduction, begins with setting forth his Intention of teaching the Inhabitants (as far as a Discourse of that Sort can be supposed to extend) the several Mysteries relating to the Linen Manufactures ; he observes, that he is a Native of *St. Quintin*, and a Protestant, and that King *William III.* of Glorious Memory, encouraged him to come, and further the Linen Manufacture in this Kingdom, of whom (he says) he had an Audience more than once on that Subject.

* He observes that the Soil of this Country all over, except from *Dundalk*, northwards, will bear as good or better Hemp than the World affords, and that the Climate seems to be adapted to it by Nature, beyond any of the *Eastern* Countries, and concludes this Part of the Paragraph, by saying he has been over most part of the Country, and can affirm that the Hemp of this Kingdom wou'd make Cordage, Sail Cloth, Fishing Nets, or any other Work, that the best *Riga* or *Narva* Hemp, might be applied to.

In respect to Flax, he observes, that there is no part of the Kingdom which wou'd not produce it in very great Perfection, if the People of the Country were thoroughly instructed therein, and proper Persons employed in cultivating it.

C H A P.

* Had the Author been a Man of the Experience he pretends to, he wou'd have known that *Italy* and many Parts of *Europe*, produce Hemp of far superior Quality to *Riga* and *Narva*, and such as is made use of in the finest Linen Manufactures, and dear bought Experience (it's to be hoped) has informed our Linen Board that raising of Hemp, is neither suitable to our Climate or the Soil of this Country.

C H A P. II.

HE proceeds to shew how to cultivate and prepare Flax with Observations on the pernicious Method then practised in *Ireland*, as follows,

That the Flax-seed ought to be good and renewed from Time to Time, by fresh Seed from *Riga* or *Narva*, for being often made use of, in the same Soil it degenerates and becomes unfit for any thing but Oil, that shifting the Soil will help it, but in *France* and *Flanders*, they find by Experience, that fresh Supplies from *Riga* and *Narva* are requisite, and that Ground that is fit for Barley is good for Flax, and recommends giving Ground after a Crop of Barley is off, three ploughings before the middle of *April* following, and then to sow in each Plantation Acre, four Bushels of Flax-seed, and so in Proportion for a greater or lesser Quantity, and that Flax will grow in other Grounds that are not an over stiff Clay, &c. After taking Notice that it shou'd be weeded, when about three or four Inches above the Ground, he then cautions against pulling it until thoroughly ripe, which is to be known by the Seeds being coloured in the Pods, and the Leaves beginning to fall off, otherwise the Seed will not only be ruined, * but the Flax will be weak and unserviceable; and the not letting the Seed ripen thoroughly, (he is of Opinion) is the main Reason why our Flax-seed degenerates so soon; he then gives Directions, with respect to the Pulling, which are unnecessary to mention, as they are not worth the Farmer's Notice, or were generally known and practised; and recommends housing it until the ensuing Season, and thinks the Farmer will find his Advantage thereby, both

* This Remark is found from Experience, to be ill grounded, as the finest and strongest Flax is produced by pulling it directly when the Blossom changes, and the Seeds begin to form themselves.

both in the Goodness and Colour; he next gives Directions for watering, and cautions the Publick against Bog Water, or hard rough Water, as the first discolours the Hemp or Flax, and the latter makes it hard and improper for working. There is no material difference in his Procedure, in preparing Flax for the Hatchel, thenceforward from the Method then used by the Natives, except where he is against drying by Fire, before breaking and scutching; but this Climate rarely affords so hot a Sun as to make Flax work without Fire, and it is found from Experience, to be no Detriment to the Bleacher, but the Truth that must appear to any Man of Knowledge, that examines this Essay, thus far, is, that *Louis Crommelin* did not consider that he had not brought his warm and constant Summer with him from *St. Quintin*; nor does he appear to have examin'd the Nature of the Flax the Natives were employ'd about, as it was most certainly finer in Quality than any he introduced; and it was not possible to make it grow long by any Culture.

C H A P. III.

IS taken up about Hemp, except some little Notice taken of Hackling, and I shall pass it over, so far as it relates to Hemp, as it wou'd be taking up the Time of the Reader to no Purpose, to treat of an Article, that it is impossible from the Nature of our Soil and Climate, ever to make any Progress in, equal to the Expence attending it.

In treating of Flax Dressing, he does not make any Distinction in the Quality, but seems to imply, that it is possible to bring all Sorts of Flax to an equal degree of Fineness, and he shews, that
he

he was no Judge of Flax, as he does not even distinguish the *Flanders* Flax from any other, nor does he reason like an intelligent Flax Drefser. He then recommends County Flax Shops and Spinning-schools, and at the same Time seems desirous of avoiding any Plans that might retard the Progress of the Natives, even in their own Schemes and Manufactures.

C H A P. IV.

IN this Chapter, he first treats of Spinning Linen Yarn, and he shews beyond doubt herein, that he only intended encouraging the finest Branches of the Manufacture, such as Cambricks, Kenting, and the finest Hollands, such as were the Manufacture of that Part of *France* from whence he came, nor does he look on the coarser Branches to be of any Consequence, as he concludes a Paragraph, in saying, until the Flax of this Kingdom be brought to due Length, it may be difficult to spin the long Way, or to make extream fine Yarn; but both the one and the other must be rectified, if ever we design to bring our Manufacture to a Reputation. He disapproves of the Spinning-wheel then used, which was the same as is now turned with the Foot, and recommends the Wheel made use of in *France* and *Flanders*, that is turned by the Hand, and advances many frivolous Reasons to support his Recommendation. He then proposes the Statute Reel and the Cutts and Method of Reeling, now generally imitated, which cou'd it be effectually carried into Execution, in all Yarn lighter than two Dozen in the Pound, wou'd contribute greatly to the Advancement of the Linen Manufacture.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

IN this Chapter he sets out by Representations of three several Sorts of Looms, one used in *Holland* in weaving strong fine Linen Cloth, called a *Dutch Loom* ; a second used in *France* and *Flanders*, in making plain spotted or striped Cambricks, called an *Estile* ; and a third used in *Brittany* and *Normandy*, called the *French Loom* ; Plans of all which he gives, but he does not take notice of what Branch of the Manufacture the third Loom is imployed in, and takes notice that the Looms then used by the Natives of this Kingdom (except those employed in making Diapers or Damasks) have their Beams too far asunder (commonly called too long in the Reach) for working fine *Holland*, and that our Looms are not fit for any Branches of the Manufacture (that he seems to be acquainted with ;) therefore he concludes, that as we are to begin the Trade, it is our Interest to copy after the Foreigners in every respect.

It is plain from the whole of this Chapter, that he had no Knowledge of any Branches of foreign Manufacture, but such as were made in the Neighbourhood of his Place of Nativity, viz. Cambricks of all Sorts, and fine *Hollands* ; had he known how the People of *Brittany* and *Normandy* were employed, he must have told us it was in making Linen known by the Name of *Britanias*, for the Consumption of *Spain*, *Portugal*, and their *West Indies*, of a light sleazy Fabrick, made on the same Principle in sleaing of a thick Cambrick ; there are only two Sorts of this Manufacture, viz. three Quarters wide and yard wide, each full Breadth, of a midling Colour, and the finest Yarn in either Sort runs to about seven Hank in the Pound, or such

such as is used in our two Shilling yard wides, and the lowest Sorts to about three dozen Yarn. The *Germans* supply them with Linen still lower priced, called *Britanias* counterfeited, and I have it from good Authority, that the *French* yearly vend in *Cadiz* Market, to the Amount of a Million and a Half Sterling, of their *Britanias* .

Had Mr. *Crommelin* been the Manufacturer of that universal Knowledge he pretends to, this was the Branch he must have introduced, as most suitable to the Spinning and Looms used among the People, at that Day in the *North* where the *French* Colony was first established ; but of this more hereafter. He then gives an Account of the choice of Reeds, Geers, dressing, and weaving, and in every Particular endeavours to shew the Natives did not understand the fine Branches of the Linen Manufacture, whilst he at the same time demonstrably proves he knew no other ; and like some other Authors that will come under consideration hereafter, he always proposes the most expensive Methods of doing Business.

C H A P. VI.

THIS, his last Chapter, contains his whole Theory and practical Knowledge of Bleaching, and by following the Directions he lays down in his Coarse of Operation, I will venture to say it is impossible to make a white Piece of Linen ; his Scheme is the most expensive I ever met with, he neither follows the *Dutch* nor the *French* Method (as practised at the *Dundalk* Cambrick Factory) nor indeed do I believe he ever made a high white Piece of Linen or had any Knowledge of this Part of the Mystery (as he terms it) and by the Improvements

provements of our Machinery for washing and rubbing, and saving Expence of Hands, Sowers and Ashes, we have gained more in a few Years on Foreigners in our finest Branches of the Manufacture, than it would be possible to have effected for Ages by pursuing his Schemes.

It will appear that our Natives, unassisted by the Linen-Board, have struck out Branches entirely new, which they have carried to such Degrees of Perfection, by their Ingenuity and Industry, as to have gained them Reputation abroad, tho' neglected at home; and I am not of Opinion, there is any danger of losing the Reputation they have gained by a moderate Use of Rubbing Boards in the finer Branches, notwithstanding the Disposition appearing in all * Gentlemen, unacquainted in the practical Part to exclaim against them.

The most material Transactions that either the Journals, Statutes, or History can afford, with respect to our Linen or Hempen Manufactures, from the earliest Notice taken of them down to this Period in 1709, have been now laid before the Publick, and as the Trustees are appointed under an Act of Parliament the succeeding Session in 1710, it may not be thought improper to make some Observations on the State and Progress of the Manufacture thus far, in order to form the better Judgment, what Encouragements were further necessary; and as there constantly appears a truly Patriot Spirit in the Legislative Body, to make such Laws, and grant such Aids, as are recommended by the Linen Board for its Improvement, it may, with Justice be inferred, that where we are wanting in the former, or misapply the latter, they are accountable to the Publick.

It

* See Doctor *Houner's* Experiments on Bleaching, Page (7.)

It must now be obvious to the Reader, that raising Flax and spinning it into Yarn, and manufacturing some sorts of Linens, were in practice in this Kingdom, upwards of two hundred Years ago ; and it further appears by the Statutes, that this Manufacture was held in great Esteem in those Days.

In the Statute of the 13th of Queen *Eliz.* whereby for the Encouragement of Manufactures and Imployment of the People, the Exportation of Flax and Linen Yarn, are prohibited, under the Penalties recited, it is obvious that we then raised Flax sufficient for our own Manufactures, and to spare, and it is necessary to observe, that the Flax we then raised, was the same taken Notice of in Lord *Strafford's* Reply, and afterwards by Sir *William Temple* and Mr. *Crommelin*, for the Seed of which there was no Necessity to go to other Countries ; and there is still preserved in the *South* and *West* Parts of this Kingdom, some Stock of this Seed. This Flax is longer than the Reply describes, and I believe is inferior to none we know of, for Strength and Fineness. There are many Gentlemen must have made the same Observation, as it was generally known of late Years in most parts of the Country ; * according to the Description given under the Article of Flax, in the *Considerations* ; it is evident, that Flax of our own Growth raised from any Seed, is more useful in our Manufactures than the Flax we import.

It appears from the best Information we can collect, either by *Valuation*, in *Charles* the Second's Reign, or the Shirtings or Linens made, that the Yarn which the Natives were employed in spinning, was such as is now known by the Name of Pound Yarn, or from four Hanks in the Pound of statuteable Yarn down. And here, to take a View of the Quality of our home Consumption and Exports, it will be found that Nineteen out of Twenty of our Spinners

* See Considerations in Relation to Flax.

ners are employed in the same way at this Day, notwithstanding the immense Sums expended in Spinning-schools, to tempt them to draw their Flax fine.

When Government and good Order were happily established in this Kingdom, after the Glorious Revolution, many Laws were made in *England* and here, in the Reign of King *William*, and in the succeeding Reigns, to prevent our continuing or extending our woollen Manufacture, by prohibiting Exportation thereof to any foreign Realm, commencing the 24th of *June*, 1699, and in Lieu of it, the Improvement of our Linen Manufacture was recommended to our Legislature; many Advantages were granted in favour of it, and through Necessity as well as Interest, it then became almost the sole Object of our Concern.

The first Step was an Instance of the greatest Prudence in the House of Commons, by ordering the fittest Persons to be nominated to superintend the Execution of Schemes, and Distribution of Premiums, in each Corporation and County.

The *French* Protestants are encouraged to settle in Colonies here, to carry on and instruct the Natives in the Linen and Hempen Manufacture, for doing which, Bounties and Pensions are granted in the amplest Manner.

The Linen Weavers are neglected until the 4th of Queen *Ann*, where a Clause is introduced in the Linen Bill to compel all Dealers to have their Linens made Twenty Two Inches and a Half wide, or be liable to Forfeiture; and this Law (as I apprehend) cou'd have no Effect only with respect to Linens exported; and I believe there is no foreign Linens either *German* or *French*, that we cou'd hope to interfere with in the Markets of *England*, *Spain*, or *Portugal*, under Twenty Five Inches wide.

The next Circumstance that deserves particular Notice, is the *French* Colonists getting the direction of the Linen Manufacture, vested in them, and being unacquainted with the coarser Branches in which our Yarn and Bandle Linen Weavers might have been imployed to the best Advantage, they prevail so far with the Legislature, as to get Spinning-schools appointed in each County, in 1708, to teach the Natives to spin fine Yarn, and the bad Consequences attending this Scheme, will more properly be the Subject of a future Number.

The Houses ordered for teaching Hemp and Flax-dressing was a good Scheme, but I believe through the Negligence of Grand Juries, it had not the desired Effect, however we have so far succeeded of late Years, as to dress our * Flax at this Day, in general, as well as any Country in *Europe*.

From the Law made in 1709, against Linen Weavers (being Natives) working at the Trade, without having served Five Years Apprenticeship, under the Penalties and Punishments therein set forth, the two following Conclusions may be drawn, first, that Gentlemen did not consider what Treasure the Kingdom was possessed of in having many Thousands of Natives Weavers, that had served little or no Apprenticeship, that must all have been suppressed, had this Law taken Effect; and Secondly, that the *French* Managers meant to create a Monopoly in their own Favour, more especially as they are exempted from Apprenticeships by the Clause.

In respect to the Necessity for Apprenticeships, read under the Title of Weaving in the *Considerations*, as from this Clause, and the like hereafter,
all

* See Considerations in Relation to Flax and Flax Dressers.

all the Trouble given Manufacturers by Combinations among Linen Weavers is derived.

In my humble Opinion, the most unhappy State a Country can labour under, is to see its Guardians (induced by Prejudice, or the Advice of Foreigners) who cannot be supposed to know how the poor Natives are employed) overlook it's most essential Interests. Where is the Man (when he is going to rebuild his House) that will not consider with the greatest Care, what Materials he is possessed of, and how they may be disposed of to the best Advantage? yet how unhappily hath this Kingdom been treated, the Schemes of Foreigners too often adopted, and Laws have been made, which hard Necessity, and want of Information to lead them into other Branches, hath obliged the Natives to oppose.

From what hath appeared to the Reader as yet, there is no room for great Encomiums on our first Trustees, or Reflections being thrown out against our Commonalty.

My next NUMBER, shall contain an account of the Linen Fund down to the present Time, and a brief Account of such Laws and other Circumstances as intervened towards enabling the present Board to discharge the Trust reposed in them, with the greater Advantage to the Kingdom, and in this NUMBER will be introduced farther Reports of the Honourable House of Commons, with Remarks.

It is thought necessary to advertise the Publick; that altho' the Advantages this Country derives from the Improvement of the Linen Manufacture, are generally ascribed (by Strangers) to the prudent Distribution of the Linen Fund, yet it will appear that Necessity arising from our confined Circumstances with respect to Trade, and the Ingenuity of our Inhabitants, have a much greater Share therein; and there will be little room left for the

the Odium thrown on the Commonalty of this Kingdom, * by the ingenious Doctor *Home*, in order to compliment the Linen Board (who in other Respects hath great Merit for his Experiments on Bleaching) and the Doctor may hereafter have an Opportunity of seeing the Gratuities given to promote the two handed Spinning Scheme of his famous *Scots* Woman, ranged among the Misapplications of the Linen Fund.

The Reader is requested to keep these NUMBERS intire, as Reference will be had from one to another, throughout the Whole.

* See his Experiments on Bleaching, p. 5.

The END OF N U M B. I.

T H E

I N Q U I R Y

I N T O T H E

S t a t e *and* P r o g r e s s

O F T H E

L I N E N M A N U F A C T U R E

C O N T I N U E D,

N U M B E R I I.

IN the First Number of this INQUIRY, the State and Progress of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures of this Kingdom are laid before the Publick, collected from the most authentic Vouchers and Circumstances at this distance of time, beginning in 1542 and brought down to 1710, in order to enable the Reader to judge what Encouragements

F ments

ments were further necessary, when the Linen Board was instituted under an Act of Parliament, to consist of Seventy Two Trustees, Eighteen to be nominated out of each Province, who have had all Funds granted since that time for encouraging or extending the Linen or Hempen Manufactures vested in them. And the Lord Lieutenant, or Chief Governor for the time being, is thereby empowered to appoint new Trustees, in case of Vacancies.

I shall not trouble the Reader with a Preface to each of these Papers, as I hope my Design in publishing them will meet with that favourable Construction, that each Member of the Community may lay some Claim to, who endeavours to turn those Hours he can spare from the more necessary Attendance on his own Affairs, to the Advantage of the Publick.

In the former Number, a Resolution of the honourable House of Commons was omitted, that it may be necessary to refer to hereafter.

In 1703, *October 7*, the Committee of Trade resolved, that it was their Opinion, that for the Preservation of Trade between *England* and *Ireland*, small Frigates or Vessels of Eight or Ten Guns with Oars, over and above cruising Frigates in the Channel, are necessary to secure the Ports, Creeks, and Coasts in this Kingdom from Insults of small Privateers.

To which Resolution the House did agree, and it was ordered, that such Members of this House as are of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, do attend his Grace the Lord Lieutenant with the said Resolution, and desire his Grace, that the same may be laid before her Majesty.

1707, *October 30*. Resolved, *Nem. Con.* that *Louis Crommelin* hath been eminently useful to this King-

Kingdom, in promoting the Linen Manufacture thereof.

1710, *June 15.* Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee, that it is the indispensable Duty of all Justices of the Peace, and chief Magistrates of Cities and Corporate Towns in this Kingdom, strictly to put in Execution the Laws relating to the Linen Manufacture.

To which Resolution the House did agree.

Ordered, that such Members of this House as are of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, do attend his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and desire that his Excellency will be pleased to give Directions that a Proclamation may issue, requiring all Justices of the Peace, and Chief Magistrates of Cities and Corporate Towns in this Kingdom, strictly to put in Execution the Laws relating to the Linen Manufacture.

On Petitions presented and examined, it was resolved, that the Corporation of *Drogheda* have arbitrarily and illegally exacted Toll of Linen Yarn in the Town of *Drogheda*, contrary to the Act, intitled, An Act for the Improvement of the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures in this Kingdom, and to the Discouragement of the Trade of this Kingdom.

Ordered, that the Mayor and Customers of *Drogheda*, now in Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House, be continued in Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, during the Pleasure of this House.

In 1710, the Statute wherein the Trustees are appointed, recites, An Act passed the last Session, commencing 25 *June* 1709, granting a Duty of 18*d.* per Yard on Calicoes, &c. and 6*d.* per Yard for every Yard of Linen to be imported, and to be applied to the Use of the Linen Manufacture:

And in this Session this Act is continued for Seven Years, and to the End of the next Session of Parliament, the Produce of which will appear in the Linen Fund; and one half the Fund was now ordered to be applied to the Encouragement of the Hempen, and the other to the Flaxen Manufactures. And in this Act, Linens were denominated as follows, from their Breadths, *viz.* Ell wides *Ulsters*, Yard half quarter wide *Lurgans*, Yard wides *Lisburns*, three Quarters and half wide *Cole-rains*, three Quarters and Nail broad *Antrim*s, three Quarters wide *Dungannon*s, Linens half Yard and half Quarter, or $22\frac{1}{2}$ Inches, wide *Munster*s. And there is a Clause in this Act empowering the Justice or Justices of Assize to fine Justices of the Peace or Chief Magistrates, neglecting or abusing their Authority, in relation to the Execution of the Linen Statutes; the Fine to go to the Informer.

1710. June 15. A Message was sent from the House of Commons to the Lord Lieutenant, for a Proclamation for putting the Linen Statutes in execution; and a Bill for the same purpose was brought in, and the Sleaing Tables made by * Mr. *Joseph Beaumont* much approved and printed, and a Reward voted for him.

June 21. A Petition of the Merchants and Dealers in the Linen Manufacture in the North of *Ireland*, was presented, praying that the House would consider of some Means to promote the making of middling Linen Cloth in this Kingdom, and referred to the Committee to whom Heads of a Bill for enforcing Acts and Regulations, &c. was referred.

1711. Voted, that 1619*l.* be deducted by Act of Parliament out of the Publick Ballance then due
the

* Some Observations will be made on this Performance, among others, towards the End of this Number.

the Nation, and directed to be applied for the Encouragement of the Linen and Flaxen Manufactures.

In this Session a Bill was passed, to encourage the sowing and dressing of Flax in this Kingdom.

1713. *December 5.* A Committee was appointed to inspect the Management and State of the Linen Manufacture, who did not make any Report before the Queen died.

1715. *November 29.* A Committee appointed to inspect the State of the Linen Manufacture, and consider what may be done for the farther Improvement thereof, report in Substance as follows.

The Committee having examined all the Books and Proceedings of the Trustees do find, that the said Trustees have been very careful and diligent in the Execution of the Trust committed to them; and notwithstanding the many Difficulties they labour under, have very considerably improved the said Manufacture, the chief Obstacles to which were,

1. The badness of the Flax and Hemp-seed in this Kingdom.
2. The Ignorance of the People in managing their Seed, Flax, and Yarn.
3. The want of Manufactories being set up in several Parts of the Kingdom, which, if once settled, would employ great Numbers of Hands, and encourage others Industry that way.
4. The bad Method of Whitening.

To remedy these Evils, the Trustees took the following Methods.

They imported great Quantities of foreign Hemp and Flax Seed, which they disposed of in the several Provinces of this Kingdom at half the first Cost to some, to others *gratis*. This encouraged the

sowing larger Quantities than usual, and the Produce has let People see the Goodness of foreign Seed in preference to our own; and they observe, that though for the last Three Years past the Exportation of Linen Cloth has very considerably increased, yet the Export of Linen Yarn has proportionably likewise increased, which they attribute chiefly to the Quantities of foreign Flax-seed imported and sown, on the Encouragement given by the Trustees, and conceive, if their Fund was larger, and these Encouragements continued, it would still increase the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures of this Kingdom.

To provide against the second Evil as much as possible, they appointed two itinerant Hemp and Flax Men in each Province, who were directed to see the Laws executed, and to instruct all Persons in the best Methods of sowing and preserving their Seed, and managing their Flax and Hemp, and to make Returns of their Progress, with Remarks and Observations thereon; and the Committee are of Opinion, these itinerant Men were of great Use.

The Committee further find, that the Trustees published and dispersed several Books, for the better and more particular instructing the Commonalty in the best Methods of preparing their Ground, sowing their Seed, and managing and dressing their Hemp and Flax to make it fit for the Spinner, on which the Whitening much depends, and for the more effectual informing them of the several Laws for regulating the Flax and Hempen Manufactures.

The third Thing they found necessary to be attempted, was to encourage the setting up and establishing of Manufactures in several Parts of the Kingdom, by giving as large Premiums there-to as their small Fund would allow. This was attended

attended with some Success, several Persons having contracted with the Board for setting up Twelve several Linen and Hempen Manufactures, in the several Provinces of this Kingdom.

That Three of those Manufactures seem not to have been carried on pursuant to the Contracts made for that purpose, altho' the Board has performed all that was to be done on their Part, *viz.* One at *Rathkeil*, where little Progress had been made in building a Hemp Mill, and a Stone House for airing of Hemp-seed; and in this it appears, sufficient Security was given for the fulfilling the Contract in less than Seven Months.

The second is a Bleach-yard and Factory at *Abby-Boyle*, County *Roscommon*, contracted for by *John Hewet*, where a Bleach-yard containing an Acre and half, with Buck-house, Utensils, &c. was to be made, and Three Looms kept on Sail Cloth, and Six Looms on Dowlas Linen of high white Yarn, of such Sorts as the Trustees should appoint, and Eleven Looms for Sheeting, to be kept employed for Seven Years. The Return made of the Progress was, that he had made a Bleach-yard containing only half an Acre, provided with a good Buck-house and Utensils, had set up his whole Number of Looms, but has not kept them constantly employ'd, had made no Sail Cloth, nor sent up any Certificates of what Quantity of Cloth he had made.

The third Contract was at *Downpatrick*, by *John Beck*, where a Bleach-yard containing Four *Irish* Plantation Acres, with a Buck-house and proper Utensils, was to have been made, and Thirty-five Looms set up before *May 1715*, and kept constantly employed for Seven Years on Dowlas Linen of high white Yarn, Fifteen of which Looms were to be employed on such Kinds of Dowlas as the Trustees from time to time should appoint, according

cording to Patterns sent and sealed with their Seal. The Return made here is, that his Bleach-yard contains but One *English* Acre, and has set up but Nine of the Thirty-five Looms which he was to set up at *Downpatrick*, but employed to the Number of Thirty-one Looms; but they not being Looms of his own, as by his Contract he was obliged, are of Opinion, the Thirty-one Looms are subject to so many Fallacies, that it no way answers the Designs of the said Contract.

The fourth Thing they undertook was the better whitening of Cloth and Yarn, for which Purpose they employed *Thomas Turner* (a Person well skilled in that Art) who by Directions from the Trustees, and for a Reward given,* published and dispersed many printed Books of Instructions, of the best manner of whitening, and likewise ordered said *Turner* to attend several Bleach-yards, to instruct them in that Art, and several other Circumstances relating to Bleaching.

The Trustees published Advertisements, promising Rewards for sowing Hemp and Flax-seed, beating and dressing Hemp, and making Dowlas and Sail Cloth; but the smallness of their Fund occasioned their making the Reward so sparing, that though the Particulars designed to be encouraged were of the greatest Importance to the Kingdom, yet the Demands for such Rewards had been very inconsiderable, by which Means the Sums designed for those Purposes were, for the most part, unapplied.

The Committee here acquaint the House, of a Fraud committed by a Magistrate, in signing false Certificates, to the Number of Four Hundred and Eighty-three, and the next Collector of the Revenue being to pay them (the same to be made good

* An Account will be given of what he published, to shew his Knowledge compared with the present Times.

good by the Trustees) suspecting the Veracity of them after having paid Part, stopt Payment until further Directions from the Board of Trustees, and being informed that the Lord Chancellor had turned him out of the Peace for said Offence, the Committee came to no Resolution in respect to him.

They further observe, that the Trustees finding their yearly Fund not sufficient effectually to encourage the making of Dowlas and Sail Cloth, the two most advantageous Branches of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures, resolved to cheapen as much as possible the Materials, and to that End encouraged the importing and sowing foreign Hemp and Flax-seed, and contracted for setting up in different Parts of the Kingdom Eight Spinning Schools on Flax, containing One Hundred and Sixty Girls, at One Pound Sixteen Shillings *per Ann.* for each Girl, Amount 288*l. per Ann.* and for Twelve Hempen Schools, containing Four Hundred and Seventy young Boys and Girls, to spin Hempen Yarn, at the same Allowance *per Ann.* for each, amounting to 846*l. per Ann.*

The Committee recommend the increasing the Number of Spinning Schools, and find the yearly Expende of the Board amounts to 1729*l.* and report the Sums expended, the Money in Hands, and what they compute may be farther necessary; all which is represented hereafter in Figures, and come to many Resolutions in relation to the foregoing Report, to which the House did agree. The Substance of which Resolutions is as follows, *viz.*

Resolved, that the importing and sowing foreign Hemp and Flax-seed, is absolutely necessary for the Improvement of the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures; that the appointing proper Persons for the instructing of the common People in the best Methods

Methods for sowing, managing, and dressing Hemp and Flax; the continuance of the Spinning Schools already set up, and the increasing of the Number of them, and the encouraging the making of Dowlas Linen, will be of Use and great Advantage to the Trade of this Kingdom; that the Encouragement of a Halfpenny *per* Yard, of or by the Trustees, for the making of Dowlas Linen, is not sufficient; that the setting up of Hemp and Flax Manufactures in the several Provinces of this Kingdom, is highly advantageous, and promotes the Trade of this Kingdom; that the Trustees do put the Bonds in Suit of those Contractors who have not fulfilled their Engagements; that the Justices of the Peace and Chief Magistrates neglecting to put the Laws in execution, relating to the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures, hath been highly detrimental to, and greatly discouraged the said Manufactures; that the Trustees appointed for the Improvement of the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures, pursuant to an Act made in the ninth Year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, are of great Use to the said Manufactures; that the present Fund vested in the Trustees is not sufficient for the establishing and carrying on the Manufactures of this Kingdom; * that the Court of *Exchequer* issuing the Money, lodged there for the Use of the Linen Manufacture, to the Trustees for the Management of the said Manufacture, will be a proper Application of the said Money. And several other Resolutions relating to farther Duties.

* This Sum arose from Wool Forfeitures upon Informations, in consequence of an *English* Act of Parliament, the first Session of *William* the third.

The annual Charge (as reported) of the Trustees of the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures.

Salaries to the Clerks, Door-keeper, &c. as by	l.	s.	d.
Act of Parliament	100	—	—
Allowance to the Itinerant Men	365	—	—
Allowance for Eight Spinning Schools for Flax	288	—	—
Allowance for Twelve Spinning Schools for Hemp	846	—	—
Allowance to Thomas Hall for carrying on a Hempen Manufacture at Corke	36	—	—
Allowance to Mr. O'Brien for ditto at Currafin, County Clare	40	—	—
Allowance to James Bradshaw for ditto at Naas	54	—	—
Total	1729	—	—

† It appears that the Duties appropriated to the Hempen and Linen Manufactures, have from the Commencement at *Midsummer* 1710, to *Michaelmas* 1715, amounted to 9480 14 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
 Out of which deduct for Drawbacks on Exportation of several Quantities of Linen, &c. imported 528 0 2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
 Remains 8952 14 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

About 1700*l.* a Year at a Medium of the above Time, Decem. 20, 1715.

The several Disbursements of the Trustees are as follow.

From

† Those Duties which were then laid only on white, painted, and stained Callicoes, and all sorts of Linen imported, commenced the 25 June, 1709, and the Produce of the Year, ending at *Midsummer* 1710, not being accounted for, was owing to those Encouragements not being put under any just Regulation or Management, as appears in the Preamble of the Act passed in 1710.

From the 29th of October 1711, to the 30th of	l.	s.	d.
October 1712, as by Mr. Dering's Account, and approved of by the Committee	2123	7	0
From 30 October 1712, to 26 January 1714, as by ditto Account, and approved	2406	3	6
From 26 January 1714, to 24 December 1715, as by Mr. Usher's Account	1314	0	3½
	5843	10	9½
Remains due	3109	4	0
	8952	14	9½

Debts due from the Trustees on the 24th of December 1715, on the following Heads.

To the Clerks, Door-keeper, Messenger, and Itinerant Men for One Quarter, ending the 24 December 1715	l.	s.	d.
	105	—	—
To Brigadier Freke, as by Contract, for Three Quarters Allowance, ending the 24 December 1715	87	—	—
Due to several Schools at said Time	357	—	—
Demanded by the Dutchmen at Ratbkel for their Salaries	195	—	—
Premiums to be paid by the Trustees	150	—	—
To the Printer	10	17	6
Total due from the Trustees	904	17	6
Remains in Cash for the Use of the said Manufactures	2204	6	6

An Account of what may be further necessary, as a yearly Charge, for effectually carrying on the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures.

For the encouraging of the Importation of Hemp and Flax-seed yearly	l.	s.	d.
	400	—	—
For Twelve additional Spinning Schools, Six for Flax and Six for Hemp	648	—	—
For the encouraging of the sowing of Hemp and Flax-seed	100	—	—
Carried over	1148	—	—
Premiums			

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Brought over	1148	—	—
Premiums for Dowlas and Sail Cloth yearly	300	—	—
Encouragements for setting up new Manufactures in the several Parts of the Kingdom yearly	500	—	—
For Twenty-four Flax and Hempen Men, at 15 <i>l.</i> per Ann. each	360	—	—
Yearly additional Salaries to the Clerks and Servants	100	—	—
Total for one Year	2408	—	—
For a second Year	2408	—	—
Total for two Years	4816	—	—
In Cash due	2204	6	6

So that according to the above Computation, there will be wanting for the effectual carrying on of the said Manufactures for two Years

2611 13 6

Lodged in the First Remembrancer's Office, being the Wool Forfeitures

582 6 9½

If the said Sum be paid in to the Trustees, there will be then wanting for the effectual carrying on of the Manufactures for two Years

2029 6 8½

This Report was referred to the Committee, appointed to prepare and bring in Heads of a Bill, for the better regulating and improving of the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures.

And the same Day the House resolved, that an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, to lay before his Majesty the Inducement this Kingdom had to fall into the said Manufacture, and humbly to beseech his Majesty to interpose with the Parliament of *Great Britain*, that the time for exporting the same directly from this Kingdom to his Majesty's Plantations be enlarged.

February 8. Resolved (by the House of Commons) *Nem. Con.* that an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased

pleased to order One Thousand Pounds a Year, for the space of Two Years, to be paid to the Trustees for managing the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures, whereby they may be enabled the better to promote the said Manufactures.

In the Bill passed this Session there is nothing particular but expiring Laws revived, a small Fine ordered for Weavers misbehaving, and a Half-penny *per* Pound laid on Pound Yarn exported, and all *Scotch* Linens allowed to be imported free of the additional Duty, so long as we are allowed to export our Linens directly to the *British* Plantations.

1717. In this Session of Parliament the Duke of *Bolton* in his Speech to both Houses takes Notice, that his Majesty had passed an Act in the Parliament of *Great Britain*, for the Encouragement of the Linen Manufacture of *Ireland*; and it appears in the Address of the House of Commons, that this Act was for continuing the Liberty of exporting our Linen Manufactures to the *British* Plantations.

October 2. Resolved, that all Excise, Customs, and Duties whatsoever on brown and white Linen Cloth, of the Manufacture of *Great Britain* imported into this Kingdom, cease, during such time as it shall continue lawful to export Linen Cloth from this Kingdom to the *West Indies*; and at the same time the Duty of five Shillings *per* Hundred be laid upon all foreign Twine and Cordage imported into this Kingdom. And by other Resolutions this Session it appears, that the Drapers in the Country were very faulty in bleaching with Lime, and stamping more Yards than the Piece contained.

In this Session an Act was passed agreeable to the Resolutions of the House, exempting *British* Linen, imported free of all Duties, so long as it may

may be lawful to export our Linens directly to the *British* Plantations, laying five Shillings *per* Hundred Duty on Cordage and Twine imported (except of the Manufacture of *Great Britain*) and against watering Flax in Bog-holes or Standing-water, for two Years, and for more effectually preventing Frauds; enacting, that no Linen Cloth should be made or lapped up for Sale wet or damp, nor with any Chalk-dust or Flour, under Penalty of Forfeiture.

December 10. The Committee appointed to inspect the State of the Linen Manufacture, report the Proceedings and Accounts of the Trustees to the House, with their Opinion, the Substance of which is as follows, *viz.*

That the great Increase of Yarn and Cloth is principally to be attributed to the Trustees Care of the Manufacture, and good Management of their small Fund; that the Trustees, since the last Session, had imported considerable Quantities of the best Hemp-seed and Flax-seed, and contracted with Persons in the several Counties to sow Six Acres with Hemp-seed and Eight Acres with Flax-seed, for Two Years, furnishing them with Seed, and giving them other proper Encouragements; and had obliged the Contractors to provide a good Flax or Hemp-dresser, to work up the Produce of each Year fit to be manufactured; that by this Means they had not only greatly increased each in Quantity, but highly improved them in their Kinds, and they had imported several Sets of the best Hackles, and provided Tools for each County, for the Dressing and preparing their Materials; that to make the said Manufactures the more extensive, they had given Encouragement for setting up Manufactures of Girth Webbs of all sorts, Linen Belts, and Bridles, and coarse Ticken for Horse-Cloths; they were also promoting the making of
Stockings

Stockings of Hempen and Flaxen Threads, and all sorts of fine Threads, and had contracted with several Persons for making Hempen and Flaxen Dowlas, and Hempen Sail cloth; and that they had also directed a Parcel of Cloths to be made according to Patterns sent them, of such Sorts as are most in Demand in *Spain*, with a Prospect of opening a Trade for that kind of Linen Manufacture to that Kingdom; that by those several Steps their small Fund was in a great measure exhausted, which is reduced from what it was by the Wool Forfeitures, formerly applicable to those Manufactures, being now vested in the Crown; that the narrowness of the Fund had hindered their further extending the said Manufactures, as well as removing the many Disadvantages they still labour under.

The Committee then state the Accounts of the Trustees, with a computed Account of the Charge for the succeeding Two Years, of which it is only necessary to set before the Publick so much as the former or future Reports do not contain.

The Ballance due the Trustees at <i>Michaelmas</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1715, as by former Report, is	3109	4	0
The Produce of the Linen Duties, from <i>Michaelmas</i> 1715 to <i>Lady-day</i> 1717	3001	3	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
For Three Quarters from thence to <i>Christmas</i> 1717, computed at 1700 <i>l.</i> per Ann.	1275	0	0
	7385	7	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cash received from the Remembrancer's in the <i>Exchequer</i> on account of Wool Forfeitures, being now vested in the Crown	820	7	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total to <i>Christmas</i> 1717	8205	14	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Payments

	l. s. d.
Brought over	8205 14 11½
Payments made by the Trustees from the 24th Dec. 1715, to Michaelmas 1717, as by their Books and Vouchers appears	4750 19 7½
Due from the Trustees at Christ- mas 1717, computed at	1171 10 0
	5922 9 7½

So there will remain to be applied at *Christmas*

1717

 2283 5 4½

They shew the Charge the Trustees are liable to for the Years 1718 and 1719, as follows, and a computed additional Account of what will be necessary. For the Year 1718, to Clerk, Assistant, Door-keeper, and Messenger 150*l.* Eight itinerant Hemp and Flax Men, and an itinerant Bleacher, at 40*l.* *per Ann.* each, 360*l.* Twenty-six Flax Spinning Schools, at 37*l.* each, 962*l.* Eleven Hempen Schools, at 37*l.* half-yearly, 814*l.* *per Ann.* Thomas Hall for a Hempen Manufacture at Dunkittle 36*l.* William Stewart, itinerant Inspector in bleaching and making up Linen Cloth in the County of Antrim, 25*l.* Mr. Smith of Moyvore for making Flaxen and Hempen Dowlas 60*l.* To Lord St. George for carrying on a Linen and Hempen Manufacture at Headford 40*l.* Importation of fifty Hogsheads of Flax-seed from Riga, at about 4*l.* *per* Hoghead, 200*l.* To be paid Mr. Hugh White, Merchant; for eighty Hogsheads of Flax-seed from Holland, at 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* *per* Hoghead, 290*l.* To ditto for sixty Hogsheads of Hemp-seed from Holland, at 3*l.* 5*s.* *per* Hoghead, 195*l.* Premium to Mr. Hoare for such Sail Cloth as he shall make of foreign Hemp, not exceeding 20000 Yards, 125*l.* To Thomas Parkinson of Killough for making Dowlas and yellow Canvas 43*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* To Four Contractors in Mun-

ster and Two in *Leinster*, their first Year's Allowance for sowing Flax, 24*l.* To Thirty-two Contractors for sowing Flax, their second Year's Allowance, 384*l.* To twenty-two Contractors for sowing Hemp-seed, their second Year's Allowance, 264*l.* To Mr. *Wrightson*, &c.^s for carrying on a Manufacture of Dowlas at *Mönaghon* 40*l.* To a Flax-man at *Cootbill* 5*l.* Contingent Expences of the Board 30*l.* To Mr. *Ogle* of *Armagh* for setting up a Manufacture of Hempen and Flaxen Thread Stockings 25*l.* Fees of Warrants about 120*l.* Total Amount 4192*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

For the Year 1719. To Clerk, &c. as before, 150*l.* Eight itinerant Men and Bleacher 360*l.* Twenty-six Flaxen Spinning Schools 962*l.* Eleven Hempen Schools 814*l.* To *Wm. Stewart* 25*l.* To Mr. *Smith* 60*l.* Lord *St. George* 40*l.* Mr. *Hoare* 125*l.* Mr. *Thomas Parkinson* 43*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* To six Contractors for sowing Flax, their second Year, 72*l.* Mr. *Wrightson* 40*l.* A Flax-man at *Cootbill* 5*l.* Contingent Expences of the Board 30*l.* Fees of Warrants about 80*l.* Total 2806*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The computed additional Account of what will be necessary for the Two Years from Christmas 1717 to Christmas 1719.

Premium for making Dowlas 200*l.* Encouragement for setting up new Manufactures 200*l.* Twenty-four additional Hemp and Flax-men, at 15*l.* each, 360*l.* Which for Two Years is 1520*l.* and Importation of Hemp-seed and Flax-seed for 1719, 400*l.* Total 1920*l.*

By carrying forward this Account, as in the Report, it stands thus,

Charge

Charge of the Board, as by the foregoing Account in 1718	—	—	—	l.	s.	d.
				4192	6	8
For 1719, as by ditto	—	—	—	2806	6	8
The computed additional Charge for 1718 and 1719	—	—	—	1920	0	0
				8918	13	4

By Cash remaining to be applied at <i>Christmas</i> 1717	—	2283	5	4
The Produce of the Fund for Two Years to <i>Christmas</i> 1719, computed at 1700 <i>l.</i> per Ann.	—	3400	0	0
			5683	5 4

There is then wanting towards effectually carrying on the Manufactures for Two Years, ending <i>Christmas</i> 1719	—	3235	8	0
--	---	------	---	---

The Committee having taken the Petition of *Louis Crommelin* into Consideration (proposing, upon a suitable Encouragement, to set up and carry on the Hempen Manufacture of Sail Cloth, in such Part of the Kingdom as the House should think proper) received full Satisfaction of the Truth of his Allegations, and came to Resolutions the Substance of which is as follows: That the present Fund is not sufficient; that the taking or exacting of Toll for Linen Cloth and Yarn, upon any Pretence whatsoever, is arbitrary and illegal, and hath been a great Discouragement to the Linen Manufacture; that settling Manufactures of Hempen Sail Cloth in proper Places would be highly advantageous to this Kingdom; that *Louis Crommelin* is a proper Person to be employed in making Settlements of the Manufacture of Hempen Sail Cloth in such Places as the Trustees shall appoint, and subject to their Directions; and resolved on another Address for the 1000*l.* per Ann. pursuant to the Address of the former Session, the Trustees not having applied for the Money.

In 1719, it appears that the 2000*l.* addressed for in 1715 and 1717, was ordered by Warrant the 24 *January* 1718. In this Session a Bill was passed for better regulating the buying and selling of Yarn and Cloth, and further improving the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures of this Kingdom, vesting in the Trustees a Power to appoint publick Lappers, restraining all Persons from selling or exposing to Sale Linen Cloth or Yarn at any Markets or Fairs, otherways than from Eight o'Clock in the Morning to Eight o'Clock in the Evening, on the Fair or Market-day, or within the Two Days preceding, under Penalty of Forfeiture; prohibiting the Use of * Ouncels, Scales, or Weights in buying Yarn; regulating the making of Threads, Bos, Tapes, Inkles, Ferriting, &c. prohibiting the Use of Soapers Dregs, and all Dung, except Cow Dung, in bleaching; and to prevent the further payment of Drawbacks or Debentures on Callicoes, Hollands, or Sail Cloth exported, and extending the Duty to foreign Sails imported.

In 1721, a Committee appointed to inspect the State and Condition of the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures, and to consider what might be further necessary for the Improvement thereof, report in Substance as follows: That the Trustees have discharged their Trust with the greatest Care, and they already find our Linens have greatly regained their Reputation in foreign Markets, by the appointing of proper Persons in the several Counties for sealing and stamping all Linens to be exposed

* This Clause was intended to prevent any Yarn being sold by weight, but Experience must evince the Necessity there is for Liberty of selling all Yarn under Two Dozen in the Pound by weight, or the Spinner will never be able to get the Value, and in the coarser Sorts it would make the Dozens too bulky.

posed to Sale. They recommend the erecting a Repository or Hall in *Dublin*, in the same manner it now is established; and then observe the great Increase of the Sail Cloth Manufacture at *Rathkeile* and *Corke*, by which means there had been exported 20821 Yards of Hempen Sail Cloth made of the Growth of this Kingdom, within One Year and a Quarter, ending *Midsummer* before, besides considerable Quantities of Sail Cloth made of foreign Hemp, but are in hopes the Trustees may soon be able, by their Encouragements, to have sufficient Quantities of our own Growth to supply the Manufacturers; that the Trustees then had before them a Proposal for setting up another Hempen Manufactory at *Waterford*, by very considerable Merchants in *England*, but the narrowness of their Fund hindered them from closing with so great and good an Undertaking; that for their Information they had employed an understanding Person to go into foreign Parts, to make himself entirely Master of the Methods used for improving the several Branches of the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures, but that their Inclinations to promote the Trade had carried them beyond the Bounds of their small Fund, insomuch that they were at this time in Debt, as appears in the Report, 1060*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$; * that the Linen Duties had decreased greatly; and are of Opinion, that Methods should be thought on for promoting the Linen Manufacture, which is the chief Support of the Kingdom; and resolve,

G 3

That

* The Linen Duties at this time decreased from 1700*l.* per Ann. to 1020*l.* owing to a Scheme for stamping all Callicoos, Linens, &c. that had paid Duty in the Custom-house, and by the Dealers in those Commodities having counterfeited the Stamps, it appears, that the Increase in Running was so great as to have this Effect on the Linen Fund.

That an Hall in the City of *Dublin*, as a Repository for Linens brought up for Sale, and put under the Care and Direction of the Trustees, would be of great Use and Encouragement to the Linen Trade, and that the present Fund vested in the Trustees, is not sufficient for their necessary Undertakings. To which Resolutions the House did agree.

At this time they have a Computation, returned by the Clerk to the Board, of the annual Charge of the Trustees, as follows.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Salaries to the Servants of the Board	—	150	—
Allowances to 32 itinerant Men, at 10 <i>l.</i> per Ann.		320	—
Ditto to Spinning Schools	—	760	—
Ditto to Contractors	—	1229	—
For Importation of Seed	—	1295	—
For Hatchels	—	150	—
Contingencies	—	700	—
		4604	—

In this Session there was no Bill passed, but by the publick Accounts it appears, that there was granted by Parliament in the Committee of Supply, to pay the Debt of the Board, 1060*l.* and towards building the Linen Hall 1500*l.*

The Substance of a Report made to the honourable House of Commons, in 1723.

A Committee appointed to inspect the State of the Manufactures, and consider what was necessary to be done for the further Improvement and Regulation thereof, with Pleasure take Notice of the great Progress the Linen Manufacture had made; that the great Increase of the Manufacture seems to commence in 1713, and always continued in an improving way till the Act for the Appointment of Lappers was put in execution, since which

which time it had increased greatly; and they here recommend, that the Clause for Lappers should be extended to unbleached Linens when exposed to Sale; they approve much of the Advantages which must probably accrue to the Publick from the Linen Hall being erected, and observe, that of 1500*l.* granted the last Session, the Trustees had expended 1179*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* Ballance 320*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* which with 1500*l.* more, according to the Surveyor General's Computation, would finish as much of the Hall as the Committee thought then necessary; that the Hempen Manufacture seemed to be set fairly on foot, but observe, that the Reason why it had not made a greater Progress was, that the Kingdom had not raised sufficient Quantities of Hemp to supply the several Factories, but are in hopes this Defect may be remedied, the Trustees having given good Encouragement for raising great Quantities of Hemp in several Parts of the Kingdom; they further observe, that the Linen Manufacture can never be carried on in a certain, expeditious, and cheap Method, unless the Laws made for ascertaining the Length and Count of Yarn be strictly put in execution, which appears to them to have been hitherto neglected; and they recommend the putting an effectual Stop to the selling unstatutable or Head-yarn, and take Notice of several Applications from Manufacturers in *England* to the Trustees for this purpose; they then observe, that there never had been sufficient Quantities of Flax raised in this Kingdom to employ our Looms and Poor, and carry on an extensive Manufacture;* that in the Year 1722 there

G 4

was

* The Publick must think the Schemes hitherto tried, for encouraging Flax-farming and providing our own Material, ineffectual and badly executed, when they examine the Quantity that was found necessary to be imported for the Support of our Linen Manufacture for seven Years, ending 25 *March* 1751.

An

An Account of the Quantity of drest and undrest Flax imported into the Kingdom of Ireland, for seven Years ending the 25 March 1751, each Year distinguished, and the Countries from whence imported.

	From Great Britain, but all to a Trifle of the Growth of the East Country.				East Country.				Holland.				Total.				Computed at 40s per Hu. first Cost to the Kingdom.			
	Drest.		Undrest.		Undrest.		Undrest.		Drest.		Undrest.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.	
	Hun.	qr. lb.	Hun.	qr. lb.	Hun.	qr. lb.	Hun.	qr. lb.	Hun.	qr. lb.	Hun.	qr. lb.	Hun.	qr. lb.	Hun.	qr. lb.	l.	s.	d.	
1745	0	0	0	21	98	0	7	4	1	14	463	1	896	0	0	0	1792	0	0	
1746	0	3	0	21	1756	2	21	2	1	7	73	2	4326	3	14	0	8653	15	0	
1747	0	3	0	21	693	3	0	4	1	7	1565	3	7404	0	14	0	14808	5	0	
1748	2	0	21	0	9581	1	0	8	0	7	1115	2	17293	1	7	0	34586	12	6	
1749	0	0	7	0	2223	2	0	6	1	7	409	3	4422	2	14	0	8845	5	0	
1750	7	2	14	0	2026	2	0	8	1	21	837	1	10099	3	7	0	20199	12	6	
1751	243	2	21	16564	7161	0	7	3	2	21	807	0	24779	2	21	0	49559	7	6	
																	69222	1	21	6
																	138444	17	6	

was imported One Hundred and Seven Ton, Eighteen Hundred, One Quarter, and Thirteen Pounds of Flax; and in the Quarter ending the 24th of *June* 1723, One Hundred and Fifty-three Ton, Nineteen Hundred, One Quarter, and Five Pounds, besides a great Quantity since, of which an exact Account could not be got; to remedy which for the future, they hope the House will find proper Methods to increase the Growth of our own Flax, so as it may fully answer the Demands of our Manufacturers and Spinners.

In this Session a Bill was passed, enacting, that all Flaxen or Hempen Linens made of high white Yarn, should be sealed and lapped the same as bleached Linens, under the same Penalty as white Linens, and that unbleached Linens should be sold in Folds, and making the stealing of Linen or Hempen Yarn, or Cloth out of Bleach-yards, of the Value of Five Shillings or upwards, Felony without the Benefit of Clergy; the Penalty on Weavers not having served Five Years Apprenticeship repealed, and they obliged to serve Four Years, under a Penalty of Five Pounds; and many other Clauses for regulating the Flaxen and Hempen Manufactures, which it is unnecessary to set forth here.

In this Session there was 1500*l.* more granted to build the Linen Hall, and 4000*l.* to buy Seed.

In 1725, a Committee appointed to inspect into the State of the Hempen and Linen Manufactures, report in Substance as follows.

That the several Parliaments in this Kingdom had, in the Reign of *Queen Anne* and the present Reign, made several good Laws, in order to set up and enlarge the Manufactures of Flax and Hemp among us.

The Effect of those Laws hath been, that *Ulster* has universally run into the Manufactures of
Linen

Linen and Yarn, by which their Rent is in a great measure paid, their Land improved in Value, and their Poor maintained. The Provinces of *Leinster*, *Munster*, and *Connaught* have every one of them laid a Foundation to begin and carry on the same Manufactures, and some good Cloth is now yearly made in every one of those Provinces. *Connaught* is remarkable for making great Quantities of a very good and useful Yarn; and the Trustees have and do encourage the setting up and enlarging those Manufactures; so that it is to be hoped, if the Gentlemen of those Provinces will encourage Spinning Schools, Weavers, and the sowing and right dressing of Flax, every Part of this Kingdom, that is not adapted for the Hempen Manufacture, will in time come into as full a Possession of the Linen and Yarn Manufactures as *Ulster* has done; nor is there room to doubt but that there will be sufficient Markets for all.

Then some Paragraphs are taken up in shewing how useful the Hall will be to the Publick, which is generally known at present, and an Account of the Money expended in building it, to 1727, shall be accounted for in the next Report of the honourable House of Commons in relation to the Linen Manufacture. The Committee report the State of the Accounts, which shall be represented hereafter in Figures, with such Grants and Schemes as they set forth to the House; and that the 4000*l.* given by Parliament the last Session, to import Flax and Hemp-seed, had promoted Flax-farming so as to raise sufficient Quantities for our own Manufacture, and was sold at Five Shillings *per* Stone, and that for some Years past great Quantities of foreign Flax had been imported, and sold from Eight to Eleven Shillings *per* Stone; and this Year, Merchants who had imported

ported foreign Flax, finding no Market for it here, were forced to re-export it; and they here observe, that our Native Flax is better than the Flax imported, and that raising of Hemp in this Kingdom, had increased in Quantity from Four or Five Tons a Year to above One Hundred and Five Tons, and that large Contracts were made to increase the Growth; that the Yarn was not made proper Count in different Parts of the County of *Down*, and at *Drogheda*, and that those Abuses are in a great measure owing to the Negligence of the Civil Magistrate; they recommend Cheque Reels, which the Trustees begun then to distribute as their Fund would allow, and the keeping the Seed in the Pod, or rather on the Stalk, until towards Spring, the better to nourish it and make it fit to produce good Flax; they further recommend the building of Oil Mills, to consume and turn to Advantage such Seed as from being badly saved, or run out, is unfit for sowing, the better to encourage the Husbandman in saving Flax-seed; and observe, that they, as well as former Committees, had it in proof, that the rich Land in the South improves hungry and poor Seed, which inclines them to presume, that from the South there might yearly be a sufficient Quantity of the best Seed produced, to change the run-out Seed in the poorer Lands, without being obliged to foreign Markets, and that the Lands that produce the best Seed will also produce the best Flax, which is the greatest Encouragement imaginable to raise great Quantities of Flax in those rich Soils; and also, that the Housewives and Weavers are very faulty in making the Linen narrower than the Law directs. They then take Notice of a new Hempen Manufacture being encouraged by the Trustees at *Rathbride*, County *Kildare*, and that this, and the

Two at *Corke*, and One at *Waterford*, are in an improving way; and seem to have Hopes, that in time such great Quantities of Hemp might be raised in this Kingdom, as in a great measure to supply the *British* Markets.

It appears in this Report, that the Duties appropriated to the Linen Fund, from the Institution of the Board in 1710, to 25 March 1725, amount to			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
			39074	10	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Granted by King's Letter, dated 8 Nov. 1718			2000	—	—
Granted by Parliament the 8th of the King, to build the Hall			1500	—	—
Granted by ditto to pay Debts			1060	—	—
Granted by ditto the 10th of the King, to build the Hall			1500	—	—
Granted by ditto, ditto, to buy Hemp and Flax-feed			4000	—	—
Total			49134	10	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
By deducting the Duties, &c. accounted for to Parliament to 25 Dec. 1717			14049	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total Duties and Grants from Christmas 1717 to 25 March 1725			35085	4	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
To which add the Ballance due at Christmas 1717			2283	5	4
Total Amouht			37368	9	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
At this time it appeared to the Committee, by the Deputy Vice Treafurer's Certificates, that the Trustees had received of this Sum			35170	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ballance due to the Trustees at Lady-day 1725			2198	8	8 $\frac{1}{2}$

But the Committee here observe, that out of this Sum must be deducted 351*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* $\frac{3}{4}$ due to the Linen Hall, and an Arrear of 499*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* due to the Hempen Manufacture at *Waterford*, and 140 Spinning Wheels and as many Cheque Wheels for 27 Counties of this Kingdom, which at the Rates agreed for amount to 1375*l.* these several Sums

Sums put together make 2225*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$, which is 27*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$ more than the Ballance due to them.

In this Session they resolve in the Supply, that 2000*l.* *per Ann.* for Two Years, be given to the Trustees, to encourage the raising sufficient Quantities of Flax and Hemp in this Kingdom; and this Resolution has been continued constantly every Session down to the present Time, and will be charged in the Linen Fund accordingly.

In 1727, a Committee appointed to inspect the State of the Hemen and Flaxen Manufactures, report in Substance as follows: That 3000*l.* granted by Parliament towards building the Hall, hath been laid out by the Trustees, and 689*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ of their Fund, and that 4000*l.* granted by Parliament for the purchase of Hemp and Flax-seed, for the Years 1725 and 1726, had been laid out in Seed and Carriage, and 247*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$ more out of the Linen Fund; that it appears, the Accounts of the said Trustees are regularly kept and fairly stated, and proper Vouchers were laid before the Committee, the Amount as follows, *viz.*

Ballance settled by the late House of Commons,			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
at <i>Lady-day</i> 1725	—	—	2198	18	9
Linen Duties arising in the Two Years, ending					
<i>Lady-day</i> 1727	—	—	10379	7	0
Total			12578	5	9

To answer which the following Payments were

made by Warrants drawn to <i>Lady-day</i> 1726	4713	3	0
By ditto to <i>Lady-day</i> 1727	3481	13	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
	8194	16	2 $\frac{1}{4}$

Ballance due to the Trustees at *Lady-day* 1727 4383 9 6 $\frac{1}{4}$

In

In this Session a Bill was passed, empowering the Trustees to make such Regulations in the Linen Hall as they should think proper, and ascertaining the Breadths of Linens made, as in Pages 42 and 72. Magistrates wilfully neglecting or refusing to execute the Powers vested in them by any of the Acts relating to the Linen Manufacture, subjected to a Fine not exceeding 100*l.* to be prosecuted with the Approbation of any Five or more Trustees, upon Information or Indictment exhibited in his Majesty's Court of *King's Bench*, or before the Judges of Assize in their Circuits, and many other Regulations that are immaterial here.

In 1733 a Bill was passed, in which the Bounty of 5*s.* *per* Hogshead on Flax-seed or Hemp-seed imported, is extended to all Hemp or Flax-seed imported from the *British* Plantations in *America*, with some farther Regulations, and continuing Acts near expiring; and in 1735 another Bill was passed appointing Packers and Viewers of Hemp, prohibiting the Use of Rubbing-boards under a Penalty of Ten Pounds, and making the Imbezzlement of Linen Yarn 40*s.* Penalty, or three Months Imprisonment, for the first Offence, and 3*l.* or six Months Imprisonment for the second Offence.

In 1737 a Bill was passed, continuing the temporary Laws near expiring, and a Clause added, empowering the Grand Jury of each County to raise Money to build a publick Warehouse for sale of Yarn, Flax, Hemp, and Flax-seed. In 1739 the Penalty on Weavers imbezzling was repealed, and it was enacted, that treble the Damage should be paid on Conviction, and all Breadths of Linen, from Twenty-two Inches and a half downwards, allowed to be made and exported, with some new Regulations that are not necessary to insert here.

In

In 1745, the Clause prohibiting the Use of Rubbing Boards was repealed; and I shall pass over the other Laws and Regulations made, repealed, or enacted, until I have an Opportunity hereafter of making some Remarks on the last Bill that was rejected by the honourable House of Commons, which, I am of Opinion, will admit of very important Alterations and Additions.

It is necessary in this Place to give the Substance of two *English* Acts, the first is in the 17th Year of the present Reign, whereby any Person counterfeiting Stamps of *Scotch* or *Irish* Linen shall forfeit 5*l.* for each Piece stamped, or exposed to sale; and affixing counterfeit Stamps on any Linens of the Manufacture of *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, and exposing them for sale in any wise, is subject to the same Penalty, And many other Particulars, to prevent the Drapers in *England* from hurting the Reputation of our Manufacture, by counterfeiting our Seals on different Species of foreign Linen, and at the same time to prevent the *Scotch* from selling our *Irish* Linens for (what they term) *Scotch Hollands*, both which Frauds were much practised at the time this Law was made.

The other Act grants the Bounty which was renewed the 29th of the present Reign, whereby all Linens of the Manufacture of *Great Britain* or *Ireland* 25 Inches or more wide, under 5*d.* per Yard in Value, are intitled to a Halfpenny per Yard Bounty on Exportation out of *Great Britain* to *Africa*, *America*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Gibraltar*, *Minnorea*, or the *East Indies*, being the Property of a Residenter in *Great Britain*, or his Majesty's Plantations in *America*; all Linens of the Value of 5*d.* and under 6*d.* per Yard to a Penny per Yard; and all Linens of the Value of 6*d.* and not exceeding 18*d.* per Yard, to Three Halfpence per Yard Bounty, from the 24th of *June* 1756, for fifteen Years,
and

and to the End of the then next Session of Parliament.

I have now laid before the Reader the Substance of the Reports of the honourable House of Commons, with respect to the Linen Manufacture, which afford most useful Discoveries for the Direction of the Linen Board, and fix certain Principles from which they ought never to deviate; and as soon as I have set forth what the Linen Fund vested in the Trustees hath amounted to, I shall take Notice of the Transactions of the Linen Board in two Instances of the latest Date, in order to shew the Publick what may be expected from a general Inquiry into the Distribution of the vast Fund appropriated to this noble Purpose.

I shall now set forth, as nearly as I can, the Amount of the Linen Fund vested in the Trustees, from their first Institution down to the present Time, distinguishing such Parts as were appropriated, and for what Purposes.

By the Report made in 1725 it appears, that the Linen Duties and Grants of Parliament, from the Commencement in 1710, to 25 March 1725, amounted to	l.	s.	d.
	49134	10	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Granted in the Committee of Supply every Year from that Time, towards raising Hemp and Flax in this Kingdom, 2000 <i>l.</i> per Ann. to 25 March 1758, is 33 Years	66000	0	0
Granted in the Committee of Supply in 1733, and continued every Session, towards promoting the Linen Manufacture in <i>Leinster</i> , <i>Munster</i> , and <i>Connaught</i> , 2000 <i>l.</i> per Ann. for 25 Years, amounts to	50000	0	0
Carried over	165134	10	2 $\frac{1}{4}$

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Brought over	165	134	10 $\frac{2}{4}$
The Linen Fund arising from Duties on Callicoos, Teas, &c. from 25 March 1725, to 25 March 1731, amount- ed to	35561	5	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, from 25 March 1731 to 25 March 1741, amounted to	83692	6	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto, from 25 March 1741 to 25 March 1751, amounted to	143596	17	0
Ditto, from 25 March 1751 to 25 March 1755, amounted to	56582	16	9
Ditto, from 25 March 1755 to 25 March 1758, computed at 13000 <i>l.</i> per Ann.	39000	0	0
	358433	4	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
In 1731, by King's Letter to purchase Ground for erecting a Flax Market	540	0	0
In 1755, by Address, to be equally divided in each County, for raising Flax	4000	0	0
Total	528107	15	0 $\frac{1}{2}$

There are Deductions of Poundage and Pells to be made out of some Part of the foregoing Sum, which I shall not enter into Particulars about.

It is unnecessary to go into an Inquiry what Number of the *French* Pensioners were employed in the Linen Manufacture, and received Pensions for their Services therein, although all Grants of this Sort may be considered as Deductions from the Credit to be given for the Merits of the Progress made. The great Expence attending the bringing and settling many *Palatine* Families in this Kingdom about 1720 (who were principally employed in the Hempen Manufacture) is likewise to be considered among the Encouragements of the Hempen and Flaxen Manufactures.

I shall now give a cursory View of the first of those Instances I promised, which is, a Scheme of the Trustees in the publick Papers, * for the Distribution of the 4000 *l.* granted last Session, to encourage the raising of Flax throughout this Kingdom. I introduce it thus early into my Remarks, not with Design to place it in the point of View it appears to me, but to awaken Gentlemens Attention to an Affair of this Consequence, and throw out some Hints, by which the Merits of the Scheme may be examined; the first Thing obvious against it is in the Report of the Committee in 1715, Page 76, where the Inhabitants in those Times (when Money was much more valuable than of late Years) did not think it worth their Notice to become Candidates when confined to Trifles. If this should be verified in

• Whereas the Sum of 4000 *l.* was granted by his Majesty to the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture, pursuant to an Address of the House of Commons last Session of Parliament, to be by them equally distributed to the several Counties in this Kingdom, in Premiums, to encourage the raising of Flax:

The said Trustees therefore give Notice, that 125 *l.* being the Proportion to each County of the said 4000 *l.* is to be divided into two Classes of Premiums, *viz.*

25 of 2 *l.* each.

75 of 1 *l.* each.

No Person to be entitled to a Premium of either Class, who sows any Quantity of Ground with Flax more than one Acre Plantation Measure.

Those who produce the largest Quantities of merchantable scutch'd Flax, worth 1 *l.* 15 *s.* the Hundred Weight, shall be entitled, according to the Quantity and Goodness, to one of the Premiums of the first Class.

Those who produce the largest Quantities of merchantable scutch'd Flax, worth at least 1 *l.* the Hundred Weight, shall be entitled to a Premium of the second Class.

Notice shall soon be given of the Manner in which the Linen Board expect to be satisfied of the Compliance with these Conditions. This Advertisement is published thus early, that those who intend to be Candidates may have time thoroughly to prepare their Ground. *Dublin Castle, Dec. 23, 1756.*

in the Scheme before us, this Bounty is thrown away; but suppose the Reverse, that in each County there are Candidates in some proportion to the Number of Families that sow within an Acre of Flax annually; should this be the Case, there are many Counties in *Ulster*, *Connaught*, *Munster*, and I believe even in *Leinster*, that contain from three to ten thousand Families that are annually intitled to Claim; and although the Board have not yet signified their Pleasure to the Publick, in what manner they are to be satisfied, it may with Safety be presumed, that the Merits of each Claimant cannot be ascertained without putting either the Candidate or Linen Board, and probably both, to considerable Expence and Trouble; and then suppose that any County should send in three thousand, or even one thousand Claims, and allowing each Claim to be just, I would be glad to know who is to value their Merits in Figures, as every Claimant will differ from the other in Quantity of Ground, Weight, and Value of Flax.

I shall now leave the Reader to make his Calculations on the Expence which may probably attend this Scheme, and shall present the Original in a future Number, where it will come more properly before him (in the place of which this was substituted) as laid down to the honourable House of Commons by the worthy Member who is a Trustee of the Linen Manufacture that moved for it when this Bounty was granted; with some further Remarks and Comparisons made between them; and there is no doubt but the Gentlemen who were present will recollect the Original when they see it.

The next Instance is, the Substance of an Order made at the Linen Board about the 1st of *August* 1756, (if I am rightly informed) with a genuine Copy of the Account delivered to the Trustees in Consequence thereof.

Ordered, that the State of the Linen Board Accounts, the 1st of *January* 1753, particularly with regard to the Debt the Board was then liable to, be laid before the Board the first *Friday* in *November* next, by the Clerk; that the Net Produce of the Linen Funds for the last three Years, ending the 1st of *January* 1756, distinguishing each Year, be laid before the Board at the same time.

That a particular Account of the Application of this Fund be laid before the Board at the same time, distinguishing the Years, to whom paid, the particular Sums, and for what Purposes.

That the different Schemes of Application, such as Utensils, Flax-shops, Bleach-yards, &c. be ranged under their particular Heads, each Year respectively. And

That a written Copy, closing the Accounts the 1st of *Jan.* 1756, be delivered to each Trustee the first *Friday* in *November* next, by the Clerk of the Board.

In Consequence of which the following Account was returned.

An Account of the Expence of the Linen Board from the 1st of January 1753 to the 1st of January 1756, each Year distinct.

	Dr.	l.	s.	d.
1753. To Cash expended per Account in the Year ending 1st January 1754 —	24309	2	10	
1754. To ditto per ditto in the Year ending 1st January 1755 —	20942	5	10½	
1755. To ditto per ditto in the Year ending 1st January 1756 —	15621	16	2½	

H 3

An Account of the Produce of the Linen Board Fund from the 1st of January 1753 to the 1st of January 1756, each Year distinct, and also Cash received per Arthur Newburgh, Esq; in the said time.

	Per Contra	Cr.	l.	s.	d.
By Ballance due by the Treasury at 1st Jan. 1753			1346	16	6½
By ditto due by Mr. Newburgh at ditto —			1148	9	2½
By Produce of the Fund, including Bounty, per Account General's Certificate in the Year 1753			17912	17	0
By ditto per ditto in the Year 1754 —			17383	17	4
By ditto per ditto in the Year 1755 —			17360	14	6
By Cash received by Mr. Newburgh in the Year 1753			2077	0	0
By ditto received by ditto in the Year 1754 —			280	10	0
By ditto received by ditto in the Year 1755 —			559	8	9

[105]

Deduct Poundage and Pells on the above Account

Deduct, being so much produced by the Fund in the above three Years, per Accountant General's Certificate, more than has been received per Receiver General's Account —

58069	13	3½
1257	7	10½
56812	5	5
229	14	4
56582	11	1
4290	13	10½
60873	4	11½

By Ballance due by the Board on the 1st of Jan. 1756

An

*An Account of the nett Produce of Linen Duties in
the following Years, viz.*

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1753. One Year ending the 1st <i>January</i> 1754	13912	17	0
1754. One Year ending the 1st <i>January</i> 1755	13383	17	4
1755. One Year ending the 1st <i>January</i> 1756	13360	14	6

(A true Copy.)

The Reader may suppose from this Account, and the manner in which it is stated and worded, that the Board only stood indebted to the Publick, the 1st of *January* 1756, in 4290*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$, and that even that Sum was advanced by some Person or other, as the Title on the Side of Disbursements begins with, *To Cash expended, &c.* But this is far from being the Case, for in Place of Cash it should be Certificates, which are so generally known that they require no Description, and I shall attempt a Computation agreeable to the Plan generally observed in the preceding Reports of the honourable House of Commons, to shew, as nearly as I can suppose, the Debt of the Board the 1st of *November* 1756, from an Advertisement I saw in the publick Papers at that time, as follows.

“ 30 *October* 1756. Such Persons who have Mr. *Newburgh's* Certificates, dated before *Christmas* last, are desired to call for the Value on *Tuesday* next the 2d of *November.*”

From this Advertisement it appears, that the Board were deficient ten Months in Payment of their Certificates the 1st of <i>November</i> 1756. which I shall compute equal to the Produce of their Fund, at the Rate of 17000 <i>l.</i> per Ann. computed at that time	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
	14166	13	4

To

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Brought over	14166	13	4
To six Months unclaimed of the current Year at any given Day, for which the Board stand indebted according to their different Orders, computed at 17000 <i>l.</i> per Ann.	8500	0	0
To 2000 <i>l.</i> per Ann. due to the Publick, for raising Flax in this Kingdom in 1753, 1754, and 1755, agreeable to the Grant of Parliament, Page 100, and remaining still unpaid	6000	0	0
To sundry Contractors, Grants for Utensils, and different Orders not yet claimed, postponed for want of being in Cash, or other Circumstances, for a long course of Years back, computed moderately at	10000	0	0
Due to the Publick 1 st November 1756, by the Board	38666	13	4

This Account may appear exaggerated, but I have no Doubt of its standing a Scrutiny, provided the Trustees are supposed to be confined literally to the Grants of the honourable House of Commons, and obliged to make good their own Contracts and Orders.

It is said, the Linen Duties have fallen much short this Year of what they have produced annually for several Years past; and to ballance that, I find that the Board have become so deficient as to postpone the Payment of their Certificates for fourteen Months after their Date.

I have thought it incumbent on me thus far to entertain the Reader principally with Transactions, that will appear hereafter to have deserved this particular Notice; and I shall now take the Liberty of treating all the different Authors on this Subject that have fallen into my Hands, and hitherto unnoticed by me, with that Freedom which every one is welcome to use with my Performance, in examining their Merits; as from such a Review the Publick may receive Information essential towards

promoting the Happiness of this Kingdom hereafter.

The first on this List is *Fynes Moryson*, Gent. Secretary to Lord *Mountjoy*, Lord Deputy of *Ireland* to Queen *Elizabeth*. In his History of this Kingdom, from 1599 to 1603, Vol. 2d. Page 368, observes, “ that *Ireland* yields much Flax, which the Inhabitants work into Yarn, and export the same in great Quantity ; and of old they had such plenty of Linen Cloth, as the Natives used to wear thirty or forty Ells in a Shirt, all gathered and wrinkled, and washed in Saffron, because they never put them off till they were worn out.”

This Author corroborates the Account given by the Statutes and other Circumstances in Number I. See Pages 37 to 41.

The next that comes in course is the Mathematical Sleaing Tables of Mr. *Joseph Beaumont*, Merchant (see Page 72, in relation to them). And it would be doing Injustice to the Memory of this Author, not to allow that he hath left nothing undone that Figures seem to me capable of, so as to ascertain the Proportions to be observed in making a plain stout Piece of Linen, in Imitation of the best *Dutch* Holland ; and all plain Linen that is not made according to this Standard, of every Breadth, Degree of Fineness, and Denomination, and for all Markets, is deemed by him bad and unserviceable. All that have wrote on this Subject in *Ireland* seem to have followed the same Track ; and the Transactions of the Linen Board have corresponded in the Execution of the Schemes proposed by them in the Distribution of the Fund, which leads me to an Observation, that there will unhappily appear too much room for throughout these Papers.

It is of most dangerous Consequence to trust the sole Management of a Manufacture, on the Prosperity of which the Strength, Wealth, Honour, and very Vitals of the Inhabitants so much depend, intirely in unexperienced Hands ; for had not this been the Case, it would have been impossible for the Trustees to have pursued Measures for a long course of Years at an immense Expence, which to the Experienced must have at first View appeared unnecessary, if not destructive to the Interest of the Kingdom in general. But now to collect in as few Words as I can the Substance of the Author before me.

Mr. *Beaumont's* Calculations are only for plain strong Linen in Imitation of Holland ; but practical Knowledge in the Linen Manufacture surpasses all Theory, and there are some Propositions in this Treatise that Experience disproves. He insists, that Flax of the same Weight produced off different sorts of Soil, made into Yarn of the same Length, will make Linen of equal Quality. In Answer to this, I shall refer the Reader to Number I. Page 9 ; and it is to be presumed, that no one will contradict what is there set forth, or it had been done e're this ; and he appeals to the Trade (Weavers) whether they can over-slea a Piece of Cloth to any Degree that will raise the Price of weaving it equal to the Trouble and Loss of time, by breaking their Threads five for one more than if it were only sleaed to its due Proportion ; and that in doing so they make a long-grained Cloth, which is hateful to the Buyer, and easily detected.

The Answer to this will explain a little of the Weavers fraudulent Mystery, that the Author seems to make no Allowance for, and I could wish it was as generally known as there are Persons that employ Weavers in the Kingdom.

It is a Fact well known to most Manufacturers and Drapers in the Kingdom, that a good Workman, making a Piece of Ten Hundred in the Reed for his own account, to carry to Market for sale, generally uses the same Yarn for fineness that the Housewife employing him has put into a Twelve Hundred in the Reed, and this makes a Difference to the Owner of three Halfpence *per* Yard on a Piece of Linen between ten Pence and twelve Pence *per* Yard in Value, the Price commonly paid the Weaver being two Pence Halfpenny *per* Yard for a ten hundred Linen at Yard wide, and four Pence *per* Yard for a twelve Hundred, and the same Proportion holds generally through all Sets upwards; this high sleaing will not have the bad Effect the Author before me suggests, in breaking his Yarn and thereby creating Delay, but enables him to make greater Dispatch, as it does not receive so much West as if light sleaed, and if executed by a good Workman on a Ground Floor, will not shew so disagreeable a Grain in the Cloth, as to be discovered by every Spinner or even Buyer at first sight.

This Instance affords a useful Hint to all Gentlemen introducing the Linen Manufacture on their Estates, and thrifty Housewives, who imagine they are making cheap Linen, when in Fact they are paying 15 *per Cent.* to the Weaver more than a Manufacturer that warps his own Chains, or understands what Perfection the Weaver is capable of bringing the Piece to by Care and good Workmanship. According to Mr. *Beaumont's* Scale, the Piece of Linen should be nearly the same in fineness, and made exactly square in the Warp and West. According to the Weavers general Method of sleaing for Gentlemens Factories and Housewives, the Number of Threads are as twelve of Warp to ten of West in the Square; and according

according to the Practice of Weavers working Linens for their own accounts for sale, they flea light and weft close, and their Linen will (when grey) be found generally to have twelve Threads of Weft for ten of Warp in the Square. Mr. *Beaumont* recommends a coarse Weft, as most resembling the Fabrick of the Gulik Holland, but our Workmen by shooting down their Linen with a fine Weft, and very close, make a much more showy and neat-threaded Linen for the same Money than any of the Foreigners, and it is much better suited to our Method of bleaching with Rubbing-boards, as the Warp riding or covering the Weft in a great measure, and being coarser, is thereby more exposed to the Weather and Rubbing-boards, and is in the course of Operation in bleaching, generally brought to an equality in fineness with the Weft. These are Demonstrations that are as clear to the Experienced as any Mathematical Solution, and in the next Number there will be some further Lights thrown on this Part of the Linen Manufacture, very necessary towards the Information of the Publick.

This Author tells us in three Lines a Truth necessary to be known to every one concerned in the Manufacture, and what at the same time contains the Amount of all he seems to have had in view, *viz.* To any Sett or Hundred take double the Number and half the Number of Dozens of Yarn, true Count and Length, and it will make twenty Yards of plain Yard wide Linen; for Instance, twenty-five Dozen of Yarn, properly suited to a ten hundred Reed, will make a Piece of Linen stout or slight, according to the Weight of the Yarn, and the Market it is to be disposed of at; and here the Difference is easily described, between the different Species of Manufactures that
are

are suited to the Markets of the different Countries we might supply: *Spain* and *Portugal* buy from the *French* and *Germans* annually vast Quantities of *Britannias*, which are made (compared with our *Linen* for the *English* Market) of twelve Hundred, or four Hank Yarn, put into a ten Hundred Reed, wefted a small Degree clofer than it is set in the Warp, bleached to a middling Colour, such as *Linens* commonly exported for printing; by this means they save out of our twelve Hundred one Thread in six, and three Halfpence *per* Yard out of four Pence in weaving, and the Work being light, even at this rate is more easily executed and advantageous to the Weaver, and the lightness of the *Linen* brings it to the necessary Colour at least a Third cheaper than strong *Linen*; and this Advantage at Market in favour of the *French* *Britannias*, compared with our common Yard wide *Linens*, and three Quarters wide, of the same fineness, may be computed at present upwards of 30 *per Cent.* and so in proportion in other Articles which I shall not enumerate here; this is a Fact easily known, by comparing the *French* *Britannias* with our common *Linen*.

In respect to the Clause for marking the Hundreds on the End of the Piece, which the Author values himself on having procured, it is and was always unnecessary, as Drapers never regard the Setts, finding constantly in the same Markets, Pieces of *Linen* wrought in tens or twelves, better than others wrought in twelves and fourteen Hundreds, from the foregoing Reasons.

This Author commends highly the Essay of Mr. *Louis Crommelin*, and pays many Compliments to his Opinion and Judgment; and I think this very excusable in one that had no practical Knowledge, and further considering that Gentlemen in those

those Days (as well as the present) give no Credit to Representations of our own Inhabitants, unless certified by Foreigners, who were Strangers to the Abilities, Ingenuity, and Experience of our Natives.

The next Performance is a Treatise, intituled, *New Methods of improving Flax and Flax-feed, and bleaching Cloth*, published about 1715. See Page 76 in the Report. By *Thomas Turner*.

This Author ascribes the yellow, red, and brown Rows, and much Sprit in Cloth, to the poorness and thinness of the Soil in which the Seed was sown; but this Fault in *Irish* Flax is scarcely heard of since Bleaching hath been brought to its present Degree of perfection, and the bluish Ground remaining in Linens made of East-Country Flax, which is raised in the richest Soil, leaves no Foundation for this Supposition. [See Number I. Page 9.] He then prescribes Remedies, to dung and fallow fresh Land and good Soil, and throw it up like Potatoe Ridges, to steep the Flax-feed about two Days in New-milk, in order to prepare it for sowing; this Method he recommends, and thinks the Farmers Charges will be sufficiently recompenced. I shall refer the Reader to my next Number for Information and Experiments in respect to Flax-farming in this Kingdom.

This Author further observes, that the blackish and bluish Rows in Cloth arise from watering in black Turf-bogs, and recommends Flow Bogs, Loughs, or Ponds, so contrived as to be supplied with fresh Water. In respect to bleaching Linen Cloth, and Yarn, he recommends green Buck, or Leys made of Fern-ashes, Kelp, or Pot-ashes, and cautions the Reader to be sure to batt and rince the Leys very clean out of the Cloth before it is laid on the Bleach-yard; for the common Practice of spreading it with the Leys in it is

no manner of Benefit to it, but on the contrary, the Leys drying in the Cloth stain and give it a yellowness, to take out which will require its lying longer in the Sour. Next to bucking with Leys made of Ashes he recommends Soap bucking, and then a Sour composed of eight Quarts of Wheat or Oatmeal to half a Barrel of Water, or a Mixture of both, or of any other Grain with the Oatmeal, and, when this ferments, add four Quarts of Buttermilk to each Half Barrel of Water, the Juice of three or four Handfuls of Sorrel, or three Ounces of Burnt Allum, put in the Cloth and let it remain forty-eight Hours, then plank it and let it lye in the same Sour forty-eight Hours more; this Course must be repeated a second, third, or fourth time, according as the Cloth requires. Between the souring and soaping, Hollands may get a bucking of Leys, observing to rince well, as at first directed. When the Cloth is come to a perfect good Colour, take Buttermilk and thrice the Quantity of Water, handle the Cloth well in it, then rince it clean and take it up; this Buttermilk is not only good for the Colour, but to make it handle well and like *Dutch* Hollands. Make use of Stone and Powder Blue mixed, and the best Starch, and very white Cloth requires light bluing. He then gives Directions for high whitening Yarn fit for Dowlafs, Tapes, Ticks, &c. but I shall not trouble the Reader with them, being known to every poor Woman in the Country.

I shall make no farther Remarks here, as there will be room for a full Account of all that's necessary towards preparing most Branches of the Manufacture for Market in the next Number; but that the Utensils and Apparatus recommended by him are easily provided, and best suited to the Wealth of our Manufacturers and Dealers at that time.

In 1729, *An Essay on the Trade and Improvement of Ireland*, was published by *Arthur Dobbs, Esq;* containing very ingenious Estimates and Quotations in such Parts as relate to the Linen Manufacture, to which I shall refer myself, and set them forth as I have Occasion hereafter.

The Contents of the next Author's Productions are found in the Volume of *The Dublin Society's Weekly Observations*, in Letters dated in 1737.

This Author is justly intitled to publick Respect, for the Care he hath taken in representing so minutely, the different Methods and Schemes of Procedure by the *Dutch* and *Flemings* in Flax-farming, and the other Branches of the Linen Manufacture. But in all Plans of publick Encouragement the Disposition of the People, the Climate, and Soil must be particularly considered; I shall therefore present a View of the Probability of Success, and Utility to the Nation, in following the Directions proposed in those Letters, by comparing the Genius and Experience of the Inhabitants, and the Nature of the Soil and Climate in the different Countries, the Riches of the Manufacturers and Drapers, and what Expence they can probably afford in an Apparatus, and lastly their Ingenuity and Schemes.

He sets out by recommending such Soil, as the clayey Ground in *Zealand*, for raising the best Flax and Seed in, which he observes is deep, wet, heavy, and stiff; but notwithstanding he prefers this, yet he does not discredit the Use of other Soils. In his next Chapter he recommends many Ploughings, to manure with Marle, Lime, or Sea-wreck, as freest from the Inconvenience of Weeds, and seems not to hint at any other Grounds being proper for raising Flax but Lay Grounds, and those to be brought in by three or four ploughings and a Summer's fallowing. He makes the same Obser-

vation

vation with respect to the Preparation for sowing Flax all over *Flanders*; and proceeds by shewing the different Methods used in laying down Ground for sowing, in order to retain a proper Quantity of Moisture, and protect the Crop from the Dryness and Heat of Summer; then shews the different Methods practised by the Boors in the choice of their Seed, so as to ensure its being of the best Kind, by trying its Thickness, if it is heavy enough to sink in Water, and its Oiliness by throwing it into the Fire, and sometimes by sowing it in a Hot-bed; and he next observes, that a Succession of good Seed is not to be expected from the same Soil; then shews the Advantage Seed, removed from light Soil to Clay, and from Clay to light Soil may receive, and sets forth an Experiment made, by taking to *Munster* a Barrel of the most degenerate Seed that could be got in the *North*, and there being sown in rich, stiff Clay, it produced good Flax, and restored the Quality of the Flaxseed so as to produce again in the *North* as good as any from abroad; that a further Experiment had been made, by sowing in the same Land, with equal Culture, *American* Seed, *Riga*, *Dutch*, and *Irish*, the best they could get of each, and that the Crop produced from the *Irish* was considerably preferable to the rest; and then assigns several Reasons why we should endeavour to save our own Seed, one of which is, that it is not to be expected the *Dutch* or any other Nation will part with their best Seed, and we must be satisfied with the Refuse. He further observes, in respect to the Quantity of Seed that is to be sown in an Acre, that much depends on the Discretion of the Farmer, that from three to four Bushels will generally suffice for an *Irish* Acre, which he computes answers pretty near to the Practice in *Holland* and *Flanders*, and the latter Quantity seems to be most approved of
by

by an Experiment made by the *Dublin Society*. He recommends sowing the Flax-seed the first good Season in *March*, to have it early ripe, in order to gain the better Season for saving the Seed, watering, and grassing the Flax ; and observes, if this Method is pursued, a good Crop of Turnips may be had on those Grounds that very Season, which must otherwise continue waste and useless the Remainder of the Year ; and that a Farmer designing to lay down his Lands, may safely sow Clover or other Grass Seeds a few Days after his Flax-seed, as is constantly practised in *Holland* and *Flanders* with Success. He then goes on to shew the unhappy Circumstances we labour under, in depending on a foreign Market for our Flax-seed, the very fundamental Part of our Linen Manufacture, where Navigation is so precarious, and ascribes it to the Prejudices and perverse Disposition of our Farmers, and computes, that the Farmer in pulling his Flax green loseth, besides his Seed, at least one Half of his Crop ; that, weak green Flax breaks under the dressing, and runs to Tow, but becomes more valuable both in Quantity and Quality by being allowed to ripen ; and observes, that Maturity is full as requisite in Plants as Animals ; that it is the Practice of the *Flemings*, to let the Flax stand longest that they intend for the finest Goods, and sometimes even venture the shedding of the Seed to have it as ripe as possible, when it is to be wrought up into the finest Cambricks and Laces ; and that the time for pulling the Flax is when the Field is near a bright yellow Colour, and that the *Dutch* wait till the Pods are ready to crack, and the ripest begin to open. He then observes, that stacking Flax unrippled immediately from the Field to the Beginning of *December* (as made a Condition with Farmers in their Contracts with the Linen Board)

Board) was not practised in *Holland* or *Flanders*; that in *Holland* they never stacked it at all, but that they take from twelve to twenty Days, or longer, according to the Weather, to make the Flax before rippling; and proceeds to shew, how unnecessary and dangerous it is to stack Flax, as recommended by the Society to the Publick, and points out the Delays attending this Practice, in preventing the watering for a Season, which is of great Consequence, before the Bunn or Shive has had time to harden and become more difficult to rot, and every other Branch of the Manufacture is consequently retarded; the Benefit of a quick Return, one of the greatest Encouragements to Trade, is intirely lost to the poor Farmer, and in some Degree to every Person concerned.

The Gentleman who favoured the Publick with those Letters, in one of them, where he delivers his Opinion with some Warmth, apologizes for himself thus, "That if Warmth is at any time becoming, 'tis certainly where there is a publick and a considerable Interest at stake." I mention this, as I fear, notwithstanding my Wishes to appear calm throughout this Inquiry, I may have Occasion to refer to this Apology, more especially if the Fund (which should have e're now established us in most Branches we are capable of attaining Perfection in) appears at any time profusely squandered away, after repeated Information of the most expensive Schemes being unnecessary. Should this be the Case, and a Spirit shew itself in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Wales*, where the united Force of the Noblemen and Gentlemen, and even down to the Weaver, supported by Charters, Funds, and Subscriptions, are bent on promoting and encouraging all Branches of the Linen Manufacture. If our Circumstances at any time wear this Aspect, I
may

may be thought the more excusable for the plainness of my Address; and let not Gentlemen be surprized to hear that we are now surpassed in *England* in many Branches of the * Manufacture; for Instance, in Huckaback Table Linen in *Yorkshire*, good Sheeting in *Lancashire*, and in three
I 2 Quarters

* It may be acceptable to the Reader to see a Computation made by a very ingenious Author, who published a Pamphlet in *England* in 1738, intituled, *A Letter from a Merchant who had left off Trade, in relation to the British and Irish Linen Manufactures*. He computes that there are 8000000 of People in *England*, 2000000 in *Ireland*, 2000000 in *Scotland*, and 2000000 (including Slaves) in our Plantations, in all fourteen Millions of People, which he supposes require for Shirts, Shifts, Aprons, Caps, Gowns, Waistcoats, Jackets, Childrens Frocks, Servants Frocks, Bed and Table Linen, Sacking, &c. six Yards and a Quarter each, one with another in a Year.

According to this Supposition, 14 Millions of People consume annually	Yards.
To answer this Consumption, it appears from the Custom-house Books, that from 1728 to 1734 inclusive, there were, at a Medium yearly, imported, including Cambricks from abroad, not more than	87000000
Made in <i>Scotland</i> for their home Consumption, supposing no foreign Linen imported there	32000000
Imported from <i>Scotland</i> into <i>England</i> and the Plantations annually	12500000
	4000000
Total made in <i>Scotland</i>	16500000
Made in <i>Ireland</i> for their home Consumption, supposing no foreign Linen imported there	12500000
Imported at a Medium for the last seven Years into <i>England</i> , from <i>Ireland</i> yearly	5000000
Total made in <i>Ireland</i>	17500000
Remains of the whole Consumption, every Yard of which must be made in <i>England</i>	21000000
Total	87000000
	This

Quarters and half wide Linens, called Dowlafs, in *Somerfetshire* and *Devonshire*; and if they go on improving their Linen Manufactures with the same Rapidity as of late, it is to be feared that in a few Years they will want but little from us, and it will be looked on as a happy Provision for this Kingdom, to find a good Foundation laid for a Vent to our Linen Manufactures in *Spain*, *Portugal*, and their Dominions. I hope to be excused for this Digression, and shall now make some Remarks on the Author, so far as he is quoted agreeable to the Scheme laid down to judge of his Merits by.

As there are but few of the Particulars set forth by this minute Examiner in which I differ from him, I shall pass over such as I approve, and make my Observations where we disagree. With respect to Lay Ground being fittest for Flax, it would be found impracticable for our Poor to get such Ground prepared by frequent ploughings; but general Convenience, approv'd by Experience throughout the Kingdom, has pointed out to the Poor their Potatoo Gardens, than which, had we equal warmth of Sun, the World does not afford fitter Land for Flax. There is no Occasion for Cautions to retain Moisture in this Kingdom, we are unhappily situated in having too much Rain for Flax every Summer. In respect to the ripest Flax becoming the finest, as practised in *Holland* and *Flanders*, there is not a poor Person in this Kingdom that sows Flax but has experienced the contrary; yet I don't mention this to discredit this Gentleman's Account, for it may be occasioned by the Difference of Climates.

This Computation shews how considerable *Britain* was in the Linen Manufacture in 1738, and is sufficient to prompt all Degrees amongst us to leave nothing undone to bring to Perfection every Branch of the Manufacture we are capable of improving, more especially as Nature and the Legislature have pointed it out to us as the Staple of the Kingdom, and Support of our Inhabitants.

mates. It is well known the visible Effects that warm Climates have in bringing to maturity in fewer Years all the animal Bodies, as well as hastening Vegetables; and the Effects produced on Flax-seed by the intense Heat of the Sun in our Provinces in *North America*, may in some measure solve this Difficulty. In the southermost Provinces, where the greatest Quantities of Flax-seed are produced, the Stalk scarcely shoots above a Foot before many Sprays are thrown out and the Seed formed and ripened by the Sun, and here the Flax is of no Use, yet the finest Crops of Wheat are produced in the next Fields. Farther northward, in *Connecticut*, the Country is moist, deep, and marshy, and thereby the better protects the Stem from the Sun, and this Province produces good Flax; and at the same time it is observable in those Provinces, that the most northerly and coolest afford the best Seed; but the northermost Part of *North America*, where Flax-seed is raised, is ten Degrees to the southward of us. This gives room to believe that there is a certain medium of Climate for producing every Plant to perfection. I am notwithstanding of Opinion, we may save the greatest Part of the Seed that will be necessary in this Kingdom, and shall hereafter offer a Scheme for this purpose; but in so moderate a Climate as this, it is to be feared, before our Flax-seed can be thoroughly ripened the Juices of the Stalk will be exhausted, insomuch as to thin the Coat, and consequently lessen the Quantity of Flax, and at the same time make it more stubborn and harsh in every course of Operation.

It may not be improper here to present to the Reader the Sentiments of the *Dublin Society* (with respect to the Linen Manufacture) in their own Words. N^o 27. *Tuesday, October 11, 1737.* “As

“ the Linen Manufacture is, and must be, the
 “ main Support of Trade, and the chief Inlet of
 “ Riches in this Kingdom, it must give them a
 “ more lively Satisfaction to be useful there, than
 “ in any other Point. Improvements in any Branch
 “ of Business will indeed adorn the Kingdom; but
 “ this maintains it: Whatever affects that, affects
 “ our very Vitals; and to correct an Error, or in-
 “ troduce an advantageous Practice, is therefore
 “ eminently beneficial.”

“ Upon this account the Society will always
 “ bestow upon it, more than ordinary Attention,
 “ and give Instructions on that Head the Preference
 “ they deserve.”

This is Language becoming a Society founded
 for the most laudable Purposes; but whether they
 have fulfilled this Engagement in the only Instance
 of great Consequence that was ever put in their Pow-
 er, may be the Subject of my future Consideration.

I shall postpone the Inquiry into the Merits of
 this Author's Letters, in relation to breaking, scutch-
 ing, fining, and heckling Flax, and must observe,
 that he has discussed those several Subjects so minute-
 ly, and with so much Prolixity, that it would swell
 this Number beyond the Bounds I propose; and it
 will be in my Power in the next Number to take
 Notice of this Part of his Performance, by way of
 Notes to the Journal I shall publish.

It is however necessary to apprise the Publick,
 that I have not so contemptible an Opinion of
 the *Irish* Flax-husbandry and Methods of Flax-
 dressing as this Gentleman had; nor would it
 have been possible for the *Dublin Society* to have
 entertained so favourable an Opinion of his In-
 structions and Schemes, compared with *Irish* Con-
 venience and good Policy, had not the prevailing
 Principle of admiring every thing that is foreign
 power.

powerfully byassed their Judgments; and it will soon be clear to the Reader, that the Reception those Letters met with, led the Linen Board into most expensive Mistakes. Before I part with him, I shall make two or three Remarks on his Letters: He recommends, as indispenfible Necessaries, capacious Barns to Flax-farmers, and to the Breakers and Scutchers, besides Barns, he adds particular Situations, large Ponds, Working-houses, Fining-mills, &c. &c. that must cost a vast Sum to fit out every Individual. Certainly Gentlemen that will give themselves the Trouble to consider those Schemes, must think them impracticable, in a Country where the Farmers and Flax-dressers are so poor, and very little Water Carriage to lessen the Expence of removing so bulky a Commodity from one Part of the Kingdom to another: He fixes the Price of Workmanship, in two of his Letters, at improper Rates, viz. in Letter 28th, the Weavers Earnings at 2s. *per* Day, and in his 35th the Breaker and Scutcher at nine Pence *per* Day; where Arguments are founded on Principles that are only chimerical, they have no weight.

It is a Fact that Weavers, taken on Average in any Part of the Kingdom, employed on any sort of plain Linen, do not earn singly, paying all Deductions, above Eight Pence *per* Day, and Flax-dressers of every Degree, Breakers or Hecklers that deserve the Character of Workmen, will earn on an Average a Shilling *per* Day.

There is one plain Truth, that Reason dictates and Experience verifies, In all Schemes for Improvement in this Kingdom, the Disposition or Genius of the People, their Poverty, and the great Expence of Land Carriage on bulky Articles, must be considered; for without adapting them so as in a great measure to avoid the Inconvenience of any

of those Particulars, there will be little hopes of Success.

The next Paper is intitl'd, *Remarks on the present State of the Linen Manufacture*, &c. published in 1745, by a Member of the Board, to whom the Publick are indebted for a Letter with further Remarks, published in 1753, of which some Account shall be given hereafter.

This Paper, consists but of a few Pages, and contains many useful Observations, and Accounts of the Linen Board in the Distribution of the Fund, to which I shall have frequent Occasion to refer, when the Merits of their Schemes come to be consider'd; I shall therefore be the less particular at present in my Remarks on it.

After taking Notice of the particular Recommendation of our Linen Manufacture from the Throne, in 1745, and shewing the great Advantages this Kingdom may derive from proper Attention to its Improvement, and how much it is incumbent on every Branch of the Community to contribute thereto, he proceeds to shew the Fertility and Fitness of our Lands for Flax, by the great Produce of Flax-seed at this time, there being 17889 Barrels of Flax-seed delivered into the Stores of the Linen Board, at *Waterford, Limerick, Carlow, Cork, Sligo, and Dublin*, for the Service of 1745, besides as much rejected as would have made this Quantity upwards of 22000 Barrels.

He computes, that this Quantity of Flax-seed might have been produced off 8000 Acres of Land, and supposes each Acre to yield on a Medium four Hundred weight of clean scutched Flax fit for the Hackle, by which means 8000 Acres would produce 1600 Tons of Flax; and he then observes, that this Quantity would afford

ford a Year's Employment to 48000 People, according to a Calculation published by the *Dublin Society*, and printed in 1732. In the next Place he very justly observes, that the worst Flax that is raised, provided it is taken Care of, may be used in some Branches of the Manufacture, and bears its intrinsic Value; that *Irish* Flax raised on Land well prepared, and duly manufactured, is preferable to the Flax we import, and makes a more beautiful and durable Linen; yet notwithstanding all these Advantages in favour of our own Flax, that in *Munster* and *Leinster* they had only made the Flax-seed the Object of their Concern, for which they were paid by the Board 22s. *per* Barrel on delivering it into their Stores, and received the Seed for sowing, from the Trustees, at 10s. in *Leinster* and 5s. *per* Barrel in *Munster* and *Connaught*, and had but too generally neglected the Flax; that the Contractors (who were commonly Men of Importance) for raising Flax and Flax-seed, had intirely defeated the Scheme of the Board, in over-stocking the Kingdom with bad Seed, unfit for sowing, and only fit for Oyl, by which a considerable Loss ensued to the Trustees, which he computes at 10000*l*. He then takes Notice, that the North Part of this Kingdom, for which this Seed was intended, would not use it on account of its bad Quality; that the Board's Inducement to promote the raising of Flax-seed at home, was owing to their meeting with severe Losses, by Shipwrecks and other Disappointments in Importation, of 6000 Barrels from *Holland* or *Muscovy* annually, which they distributed agreeable to the Grant of Parliament, see Page 100; which Scheme had but slender Effect until 1738, and from that time the Increase was as follows.

Raised

		Barrels.
Raised in 1738, for the Service of 1739		1532
Ditto in 1739, for	— 1740	3072
Ditto in 1740, for	— 1741	3810
Ditto in 1741, for	— 1742	3841
Ditto in 1742, for	— 1743	8817
Ditto in 1743, for	— 1744	14820
Ditto in 1744, for	— 1745	17889

In the next Place he observes, that having no Oyl-mills in this Kingdom, this Seed being unfit for sowing must be exported, and thereby burthen the Nation, by drawing the Bounty granted by Parliament on Exportation of Flax-seed of our own Growth; and that in 1734 Flax-seed as good, or better, was delivered at the Stores in *Dublin* for 2s. *per* Bushel less, by which means the Country had been paid unnecessarily upwards of 20000*l.* within the last seven Years, and that the Encouragements given hitherto had tended to present Loss, and future Ruin, as they had fatally neglected raising Flax, which alone could enlarge our Trade, and advance the Price of Land; that they annually gave away in the aforesaid Provinces about 7000 Spinning Wheels, the Value of which, he is of Opinion, might be more advantageously applied in raising Flax for the Employment of the Poor, as the Returns of Yarn or Linnen Cloth made there, give too much room to suppose many of them lay unemployed for want of the Material; that if due Regard was had to Flax Husbandry, the following Advantages would accrue to the Publick, It would extend our Trade, by introducing the several Manufactures we are yet Strangers to, employ a vast additional Number of Hands, keep the Money at home we pay for foreign Flax and Flax-seed, increase our Exports, promote Industry and banish Idleness by furnishing

ing the Material, and multiply the Number of Rich by increasing the Value of Lands.

In order to induce the Publick to consider the Merits of this Scheme, he enumerates some of the Advantages that Premiums had produced, *viz.* In 1722 the Trustees gave a Premium for fine Linen made in Imitation of *Dutch* Holland, which had such an extraordinary Effect, that it is thought there were at this time too many of them made; and in 1734, 1735, and 1736 they gave a Premium of only 3*l.* per Ton for Flax brought to their Stores in *Dublin*, which occasioned about 30 Tons to come in. He then recommends the Consideration of those Particulars to Parliament, and reminds them of Laws necessary, among others, Black Soap, and *French* and *Spanish* Reeds, both being exceedingly useful in the Linen Manufacture, and subject to high Duties; that as the Time of the Labouring Man was the greatest native Commodity, an Act should be made to restrain all unnecessary Holidays observ'd in the Popish Church, and useles Fairs, Patterns, Races, and Cock-fightings, and to publish the Names of such Persons to whom Bounty Flax-feed was given, in order to procure an equal Distribution, and prevent fictitious Names being made use of, &c.

It would be engaging the Reader's Time to no purpose here to make any Observations on this sensible and spirited Pamphlet, as I shall have frequent Occasion hereafter to refer to it, and the Truths represented therein require no Comments.

An Essay to encourage and extend the Linen Manufacture in Ireland, by Premiums and other Means, by Thomas Prior, Esq; published in 1749, is the next Performance that deserves the Attention of the Publick; but as the Scope of this Author (who was an Ornament to this Kingdom when living, and the Care he hath shewn for its Prosperity must be

be gratefully acknowledged by Generations to come) is very extensive; I shall only give the Substance of such Part of this Essay as appears immediately necessary, and introduce such other Parts as Occasion requires, as Notes to my future Observations.

Article 17 in this Essay. There can be no Increase of the Linen Manufacture without an Increase of Yarn, nor of Yarn without an Increase of Spinners, nor of Spinners without an Increase of Flax.

19. There are as many idle Women and Children in this Kingdom that do not spin Flax, as there are that do; and many of those that are now unemployed, would work if they could procure the Materials.

30. We find a general Disposition and Readiness in all our poor Women to get a Livelihood by Spinning, if they could get Flax and Wheels to work with.

A Computation for employing of the following Number of Persons for a Year, including Spinners, Hecklers, Weavers, Bleachers, &c.

34. A Hundred Weight of Flax worth	<i>Hands.</i>
40s. will employ for a Year ———	2
A Ton, or twenty Hundred Weight will employ ———	40
A hundred Ton will employ ———	4000
A thousand Ton will employ ———	40000
And three thousand one hundred and twenty-five Tons	125000

35. He then computes that rough Flax, worth 40s. per Hundred, when manufactured into Linen, will on a Medium be worth the following Sums.

A Hun-

	<i>Pounds</i>
A Hundred Weight of Flax manufactured	<i>sterl.</i>
will be worth	16
A Ton, or twenty Hundred, will be worth	320
A hundred Tons will yield	32000
And three thousand one hundred and twenty-five Ton	1000000

He afterwards estimates each Acre, on an Average, to produce four Hundred Weight of Flax, and 15625 Acres to produce 3125 Tons, affording Employment for 125000 Hands, and amounting to a Million sterling when manufactured; and on this Supposition shews, that out of two Millions of Inhabitants in this Kingdom, a sixteenth Part are only employed thus far in our staple Commodity, and out of upwards of eleven Million of Acres, which *Ireland* contains, there is not more than 15625 necessary to produce Flax for making every Million sterling Value in Linen.

49. He shews the good Effect of Premiums, by the large Quantities of coarse Linens made and exported to *England* in 1747, when 799793 Yards were made by six Persons only, besides large Quantities made by others, the larger Premiums going, in proportion, to those who manufactured the greatest Number of Yards; and very justly observes, that unless the Quantity of Flax and Spinners are increased in the Kingdom, in proportion to the Quantity consumed in the Manufacture introduced, it is only destroying one Manufacture (and probably the more valuable) to set up another.

He then proposes a Scheme for promoting Flax-farming in this Kingdom, by giving five hundred Pounds in seven Premiums in each Province, viz. one of 100*l.* one of 90*l.* one of 80*l.* one of 70*l.*
one

one of 60*l.* and two of 50*l.* each, to be given to the seven Competitors that should appear to have raised the greatest Quantities of Flax in each Province in 1749: This Scheme was tried and continued with very bad Success by the Trustees, as will appear in the next Number, with Remarks thereon. He proposes several Schemes for importing Flax, and raising Flax-seed, but they are so open as bad Men may convert them into Jobbs, as hath been too much practised. He then observes, that it is 700 *per Cent.* Advantage to the Nation to raise Flax from Seed imported, rather than import the Flax, as a Barrel of Seed 20*s.* in Value will sow an Acre which on a Medium produces four Hundred Weight of Flax, and three Barrels of Seed worth at least eight Pounds. He recommends giving Premiums to Merchants importing *Baltick* or *North American* Seed, but there is no Occasion for any such Premium, (See Number I. Page 7.) and fixes as a certain Maxim, to be observed by all Gentlemen introducing the Linen Manufacture on their Estates, first to lay a good Foundation by raising Flax and Spinning, otherwise their Factory must be on a precarious footing, if they depend on another Part of the Country for either of those Articles.

95. He gives a History of the Introduction of the Linen Manufacture into this Kingdom by the *Scots*, in the Reigns of *James* and *Charles* the First, by which, and some other Circumstances I observe, he did not consider the lower Branches of the Manufacture, made of Pound Yarn, or any Yarn under three Dozen in the Pound, as useful to the Publick, or even deserving the Character of being a Branch of the Linen Manufacture; and the same Opinion unhappily appears through all the Papers on this Subject since the Revolution, by which Means this Part of the Manufacture

ture will deserve the more particular Notice hereafter.

He gives Instances of the Methods pursued of late in the *North* and many other Places, by Gentlemen and Traders entering into Subscriptions, to give Premiums to those who distinguish themselves in every Branch of the Linen Manufacture; and many other Schemes and Regulations, to which Reference will be had as Occasion offers.

In 1749, a Letter from Sir *Richard Cox*, Bart. to *Thomas Prior*, Esq; was published, shewing, from Experience, a sure Method to establish the Linen Manufacture, and the beneficial Effects it will immediately produce.

It would be doing Injustice to the Merits of this Letter, and depriving the Reader of half his Pleasure, for me to attempt an Abridgment of it; and as the Schemes of Encouragement contain'd therein are recommended to Gentlemen in the first Number, Page 20, and I know from Experience the great Advantages all Branches of the Linen Manufacture are capable of receiving from Premiums conferred with Judgment, I shall only make such Extracts out of it, as will serve to shew the State in which Sir *Richard* found the Linen Manufacture in his Neighbourhood, and supply me with Materials to present a fair View of his Opinion with respect to it.

In Page 14 of his Letter it appears, that the first Weavers he fixed in *Dunmanway* were accustomed to fine Work, and he was therefore obliged to send for Yarn an hundred Miles, into *Connaught*, to set his Looms going; and his great Care was to promote Spinning, so as to erect a Yarn Market to supply them, as the Country does not reap above one third Part of the Advantage of the Manufacture when the Flax is raised and Yarn made in another, and the Poor are in this Case left out of the

the Scheme, whose Employment should be the first Object taken into Consideration.

In Page 16, " I continued every Year to promote the raising of Flax, and to disperse Flax Wheels, and took great Pains to prevail with the People to cease making a Sort of Cloth 13 or 14 Inches wide, called Bandle Cloth, from the Measure two Feet long with which it was measured. This Kind of Cloth consumed most of the Flax and Yarn of the Country; but I shewed those about me, that their Profit would be much greater, if they applied their Yarn to Cloth at least three Quarters wide; nay, that it would be more advantageous to sell the Yarn in the Market than to work it up into such narrow Stuff. Some believed, tried both Methods, and found greater Profit by the Change than they were promised: Others, observing the Usefulness of their Practice speedily became Converts. Consequently many of the Weavers, who usually were employed in the narrow Manufacture, were forced to provide wider Reeds, and fit Looms, and to weave broader Linen, by which the Number of Looms and Weavers increased."

Page 19. " Though I had prevailed so far as to establish a general Practice of raising Flax, I found the Spinning was yet confined to private Families for their own Use, and to the Scholars I had formerly instructed, who were scattered thro' the Country as Servants." At this time a Spinning School for 20 Girls was obtained from the Board, which was opened in the Beginning of 1746, by a North Country Family, so as to spread the Knowledge of Spinning in the Country.

Page 27. Giving an Account of the arbitrary and extravagant Prices charged by the Weavers, he observes, " And therefore having previously consulted all the Weavers, who seemed to be very desirous

“ rous of a Reformation in this Article, a Table was
 “ soon provided, containing the Prices of weaving,
 “ from a six to a thirty Hundred, and regulated
 “ the State of Yarn, not yet arrived to the Perfec-
 “ tion of Northern Yarn.”

After presenting a Table of Work done in three Years, he proceeds thus, p. 31. “ This Table shews,
 “ that the Quality of the Cloth in 1747 and 1748
 “ exceeded that in 1746, and the Alteration must be
 “ expected to be much greater in future times, as
 “ the Reel’d-yarn increases, and the Pound-yarn
 “ decreases; which must be the Consequence of the
 “ Improvement of the Spinners, who will learn to
 “ do Justice to the Flax.”

And in respect to Weavers, in the same Page, thus, “ It being notoriously a great Loss to a Man,
 “ who can make fine Work, to descend to making
 “ of coarse: And for their Credit, it being daily
 “ seen, that a Man need serve no Time to the Trade
 “ to enable him to weave Osniaburghs, for even Men
 “ bred to weave coarse Camblets become presently
 “ Artists in this way.” And again; “ a Country
 “ that produces Flax, and doubtless a Manufacture
 “ ought to be in or near such a Country, will have
 “ great Variety; and if Flax be not spun to or near
 “ its Staple, the Owner and the Nation will lose
 “ considerably of its Value.” And he advances many other Arguments in favour of fine Weavers and Spinners.

If it should appear hereafter that a coarse Spinner can earn as much *per* Day, and is more useful and certain of Employment in this Kingdom than a fine Spinner, and that the Bundle Cloth Weaver may be as profitably employed to publick and private Advantage as the fine Weaver, I shall then avail myself of most of Sir *Richard*’s Arguments, to shew how much it is our Interest to encourage and promote the coarser Branches in preference to the fine.

In the mean time I would be glad that Gentlemen would make Computations to satisfy themselves what Proportion the Numbers of Rich bear to the Poor in *England* and *Ireland*, as from thence they may make Estimates of the Value of a coarse Linen Manufacture to a Country, compared with a fine; and it is allow'd, that no Nation in *Europe* wear as fine Linen in general as *Britain* and *Ireland*, and should we extend our Views to the Markets of *Portugal*, *Spain*, or any of the Eastern Countries, amongst most of which we have Vent for some Branches of the Manufacture, we must lower our Estimates.

The Letter taken Notice of in p. 124. containing Remarks on the Linen Trade of this Kingdom, &c. signed *N. A.* dated 13th *March* 1753, comes next under Consideration; this, as well as the former by the same Hand, is calculated to correct the Abuses introduced at the Board, where publick Money, and even publick Credit were profusely lavished.

I shall make few Observations on this Letter at present, as it relates almost intirely to the different Schemes of Encouragement and Engagements the Board were under to the Publick, and it will supply Materials, extremely necessary, when I come to give an Account of the Distribution of the Fund.

The Scope of this Letter is to shew the Necessity there was to promote Flax-farming, so as to supply our own Manufactures in this Kingdom; to point out unnecessary, destructive, and expensive Grants of the Linen Board, by which they stood engaged to the Publick for the Service of 1753 in 22199*l.* and besides this, “there are extraordinary Demands
“ yearly for Flax Mills, Possing and Rubbing Mills,
“ Encouragements for Bleach-yards, Gratuities for
“ Manufacturers, and other incidental Charges,
“ which, at the lowest, amount to 4000*l.* more;
“ so that the Expences in the Method now practi-
“ sed, exceeds the yearly Fund 9000*l.*”

He

He observes, that at this time there were 199 Spinning Schools, computed at least to 8000*l.* *per Ann.* Charge, and that 500*l.* to be given in each Province for raising Flax, being 2000*l.* *per Ann.* had been then under Consideration of the Board for 1750, and valuing the Flax of all the Claimants at forty Shillings *per* Hundred, it was not worth more than 1000*l.* that Flax-shops for vending foreign Flax, exclusive of the Poor-house Scheme, (as there was scarce any *Irish* Flax vended in them at this time) was a Charge of 4400*l.* and Flax-dressers 487*l.* Thus he accounts for 14887*l.* *per Ann.* out of the 22199*l.* and with great Justice observes, " That were these Sums, being 14887*l.* or " Part thereof, given for three, five, or seven Years, " towards procuring Flax of our own Growth, we " might hope to see the good Effects, and our Ma- " nufactures flourish all over the Kingdom.

He observes, p. 13. that " Spinning-schools, " Flax-shops, Flax-dressers, Manufacturers (and " Premiums for no Flax) is an Expence this Year " of no less than 15727*l.* and that, of this large " Sum, no less is given for spinning and selling fo- " reign Flax than 12400*l.* as little other is used " in Spinning-schools, and sold in Flax-shops, " so that to our great Reproach it may be said, we " are paying so much to *Dutch, Russians, Germans,* " and other Foreigners, for selling their Produce of " Flax, the Importation of which, including Du- " ties, amounts to 30000*l.* yearly.

In p. 14, that there is 4496*l.* given annually for Utensils, with which he supposes the Country may be sufficiently stocked.

It is only necessary to observe, that all the Force of Reason contained in this Letter, supported by the Representations of many other Persons, could not prevail with the Board to strike off at once their Darling Spinning-schools and Flax-shops, or alter in the
least

least their unprofitable Scheme (not to say worse) for raising Flax ; but after many Debates they resolv'd, that all Flax-shops and Spinning-schools should determine in five Years from their Appointment.

The next Notice the Board received, with respect to the Impropriety of their Measures, was in 1754, intituled, *Considerations, &c.* prefixed to this *Inquiry*, a Copy of which was sent to every Trustee in the Kingdom, at the Expence of the Author : And the last that hath reached my Hands, published in this Kingdom, was in 1755, intituled, *Observations on the Linen Manufacture of Ireland*, which is rather a Criticism on the last Letter of *N. A.* than offering any thing new, and if I find Occasion for any of the Particulars contained in it hereafter, I shall quote them.

The Publick have now before them the Substance of the Proceedings of the Legislature towards encouraging the Linen Manufacture, and I have endeavoured to collect, as well as the narrow Bounds of this Paper would admit, the Sentiments of the different Authors that have appeared on this Subject, and made such Remarks as I thought immediately necessary, and hope the Reader will not think the Time tedious in laying this Foundation for future Observations, when it is considered, that they must be guarded on every Side.

The next Number will represent the present State of the Linen Manufacture throughout most Parts of the Kingdom, with Remarks that will assist the Reader in judging of the Merits of such Schemes and Observations as I may lay before him.

The End of NUMBER II.

THE
INQUIRY
INTO THE
State *and* Progress
OF THE
LINEN MANUFACTURE
CONTINUED.

NUMBER III.

HAVING observed in the Votes of the Honourable House of Commons, That a Committee is appointed to Inspect and Enquire into the State of the Linen Manufacture of this Kingdom, and report the same as it shall appear to them, to the House. And the
L favourable

favourable Reception all Schemes for Promoting or Extending thereof have met with in that Honourable House, has encouraged me to proceed in this Inquiry at present, in hopes that I may contribute in some Measure to facilitate this good Work, by a Representation of such Facts and Circumstances, as I have reserved for this Number.

In the preceding Numbers, I have been the more particular in laying before the Reader, such Laws, Reports, and Resolutions of most Consequence, as had Respect to the Linen Manufacture, with the Fund appropriated for its Encouragement, and the Sentiments of most Writers on this Subject, that he may, from thence judge, what further Improvements the several Counties are capable of, throughout which the JOURNAL I am now to publish will carry him, provided Oeconomy and well digested Schemes had been the invariable Maxims pursued.

The Accounts of the Linen Board, have not been examined by the House of Commons since 1727. And in those last Thirty Years, the Trustees have expended upwards of Five hundred thousand Pounds, including the Debt they have incurred; It appears by Pages 105 and 106, that their Accounts are in the greatest Confusion, and they totally unaquainted with the Amount of their Debts. There have been unwarrantable Liberties taken in this Office, in paying the Value of Grants made by the Board, to Persons not intitled thereto, of which Instances can be produced.

All Ranks of People are agreed, That the Trust is neglected, and the Fund misapplied, but few seem to know the true Cause. Every Spectator must see, that Numbers of Gentlemen accept of this Trust without attending to the Execution of it; and the few that do attend, and all their Clerks,
being

being almost intirely unaquainted with every Branch of the Manufacture, and the Nature of Accounts, hath occasioned the Board's being involved in such Labyrinths, as it will be impossible for them to get out of, by pursuing their present Measures.

It is evident from the Reports of the Honourable House of Commons, That the Trustees expended near a Fourth-part of their Fund annually in Salaries to itinerant Inspectors for instructing the unexperienced, and detecting Frauds, so long as they were called to an Account, and obliged to report their Progress each Session of Parliament; but during the last thirty Years, notwithstanding they have distributed throughout the Kingdom half a Million; yet (except in 1755) there was not any Person sent to inquire into the Titles of the Multitudes of Claimants; some for Spinning Schools, and Flax Shops, never opened; others for Bleach-Yards or Flax-Mills, in Ruins, or never built; some for Flax-Dressers, or Yarn-Inspectors, where none such were to be found; and Multitudes for Utensils never made or delivered. But where there was no Check to their Frauds, feigned or forged Vouchers, have scarce ever been wanting, so as to claim the Premium and waste the Fund.

It is now time, that I should present to the Publick the JOURNAL wrote in 1755, by Order of the Linen Board; and I shall make my Observations in Notes to it, in order to give the clearest View of such Schemes as I think seem most likely to be attended with Success.

As it would require much Time in an Alteration, and strip this JOURNAL of that Sanction it hath received, in being approved of by the Trustees,

tees, I hope, that no Gentleman will take it amiss, that his Name accompanies his Merits, as it is only from such a Review, that the Publick can be truly informed of the Necessity of those Schemes I have to offer for the future Application of the Linen Fund.



THE
JOURNAL
OF

Robert Stephenson, Mer^t.
In 1755.

Through several Parts of the Kingdom, By Order of the Right Honourable and Honourable the TRUSTEES of the LINEN MANUFACTURE, to Inspect and Report the present State and Condition thereof.

ON Monday the 16th Day of *June* 1755, said *Stephenson* began his Inspection, proceeded to *Mullingar* in the County of *Westmeath*. Very little Flax raised on this Road, but the little promised well, and was informed the Quantity sown this Year, was more considerable, than heretofore.

At *Mullingar*, there is a Spinning-School, and a Bleach-Yard; the Bleach-Yard examined, and found it well supply'd with Water, and well stock'd with Linens and Yarn; the Business pretty well done, some of the *Barilla* or *Spanish* Ashes used here,

and approved beyond any other, the Linen Manufacture increasing here, and mostly in the low priced Sheetting way.

There were many Scholars in the School, but as the lower Class of People, all over the County of *Westmeath* are allowed to have been generally acquainted in the Knowledge and Practice of Spinning of Linen Yarn, for a long course of Years, it is presumed this Appointment was unnecessary.

Mullingar 17th *June*, this Day begun the Yarn-Fair of this Town, which continues in a slow and trifling way until the 4th of *July*, which is the main Fair-Day; Attended the Fair for some Time, and examined the Yarn brought to Market, found it generally of a good Quality, fit to make Chequers or the best coarse Sheettings, which sufficiently proves the Country being good for raising Flax; found many Bundles of the Yarn (being all Pound or Head-Yarn) very Damp, and some even Wet; enquired was there any Yarn-Inspector appointed to attend, and it was convenient for *Thomas Dugan* of *Longford*; and it was the general Report of the Yarn-Merchants or Dealers, that he had not been at a Fair in *Mullingar* to inspect the Yarn, for two or three Years, and gives very little Attention to any Fairs or Markets, that are within his District. The Salary given to *Dugan*, is so much Loss to the Publick.

On the 18th *June*, set out for *Clara*, went through *Tyrell's-pass*, where there is a Bleach-Yard the Property of Mr. *Lowe*, a considerable Factory of Weavers settled by Lord *Belfield*, the principal Manufactures carried on there, are low-priced Sheettings, the People on the Road inhabit Hutts, that sufficiently represent their Poverty.

The

The poor Women not being able to purchase or get the proper sort of Linen Wheels, generally have Wheels with a Hoop Rim.

Proceeded through *Kilbeggan*, and the same wretched Aspect appear'd through this Country, with respect to the Cottages, Spinning, and Poverty, but on Enquiry find the Poor in general were getting into the Linen Manufacture by hasty Steps. On Arrival at *Clara* found the Town and Country adjacent expressive of the Advantages flowing from the People being usefully employed, by the neat and decent Appearance of the Inhabitants, and the Multitude of good Houses built within these few Years, and no Idlers Assemblies, as at *Mullingar*, which are the constant Concomitant of want of Employment.

18th *June*, Examined a Bleach-Yard there, to which the Board have granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1751, the Property of Mr. *Richard Braddock*.

This Bleach-yard contains about Twenty five Acres of Land, was erected in 1750; the Apparatus is suited to the Extent of the Bleach-yard, having two Wash-Mills, two Furnaces, and a sufficient Number of Kieves for Lees, and Sowers, and there has been about 120000 Yards bleached here annually since the Commencement of it, mostly Sheetings, and some few coarse Diapers, they Buck chiefly there, and use more Ashes than Kelp, the Sower commonly used, is Bran and Wheat, as Butter-milk cannot be obtained.

There are several other Bleach-yards in this Neighbourhood, of great Extent and Importance, where there is a considerable deal of Business done, and from the best Information, the Country all joining *Westmeath* is in a very promising Situation,

tion, by the Employment of its Inhabitants in the Linen Manufacture; here examined a Flax-Mill the Property of Mr. *Armstrong*, but found it in little Esteem, therefore not much used, and shall refer a general Account of those Mills to *Sligo*.

Thursday, 19th June, proceeded to *Tullamore*, This Country very fit for the Linen Manufacture, and the poor Inhabitants very numerous, their Houses rather better than in the County of *Westmeath*, very little Flax raised here, but from the best Information, increasing in Quantity. Here is a very considerable Cotton Manufacture set on Foot by Mr. *Lewis Laurent*, which employs many, and the Sheeting, and Dowlas Manufacture is carried on by the same Gentleman, in an extensive manner; the Inhabitants chiefly employed in Spinning Worsted Yarn. There is a Bleach-yard erected here by Mr. *Laurent*, finished in a compleat manner, the Business well done in it, chiefly filled with his own Sheetings, Dowlas, and Cottons, some little brought in by the Country, which are mostly midling priced Yard-wides, and Diapers.

From hence proceeded to *Banagher*, and passed through a very improveable Country, the poor Women chiefly employed in spinning Worsted Yarn, no Business cut out for the Men, but Labouring-work; the Spinning of Linen-yarn, less in Practice here than any part of the Kingdom; however, this Want of Linen-yarn Spinners, a general Complaint over the *South-side* of the *King's* and *Queen's* County, riseth from their not having any Quantity of Flax raised among them,*
therefore

* The Worsted Spinners are supplied with the Balls of Wool ready Combed by their Employers, but the Price of Spinning is extremely low.

therefore they are confined to the Worsted Spinning. Mr. *Laurent* has his Linen-yarn chiefly brought from the County of *Longford* to supply his Manufacture.

There is a Salary appointed to a Flax-dresser at *Tullamore*, but could not hear of any one there, and it is presumed the Continuance of it will be thought unnecessary, as the Quantity of Flax raised there is very inconsiderable, itinerant Flax-dressers frequently in the Neighbourhood, and those that raise Flax of their own, generally dress it themselves; the Knowledge of Dressing or Heckling Flax, for the coarser Branches of the Manufacture, is so generally known, and easily acquired, that the Appointment of Flax-dressers are rarely necessary.

There had been many Spinning Schools in this Country which (if properly considered) did rather Hurt than Service to it; whoever can spin Worsted can spin coarse Linen-yarn, and therefore Flax alone was wanted cheap, so as to introduce the Linen Manufacture here, whereas Spinning Schools, could only tend to promote fine Spinning, which is not wanted, and by no means to be encouraged.

On Arrival at *Banagher* found the Town almost new built within the last three Years; there is a considerable Linen Manufacture set on Foot here by Mr. *Mullock*, to which the Improvement of this Place is to be ascribed

From hence proceeded to *Eyre-court*, where on Enquiry, found the Linen Manufacture in a promising way, being much encouraged by Colonel *Eyre*.

Went to *Balinafloe* this Night.

Friday, June 20th. Examined Colonel *Trench's* Bleach-yard, at *Balinafloe*; at the first opening.

ing of this Bleach-yard (which the Colonel still keeps in his own Hands to prevent any Impositions on the Publick) there was only Fourteen short Pieces laid down, and little more bleach'd that Season, but by the Encouragements given, and Industry promoted by him, in this Neighbourhood, the Quantity manufactured, has yearly increased so much since the Year 1749, that its apprehended the quantity Bleach'd this Year, may exceed 20000 Yards, mostly low priced Sheetings, and Yard-wides, some Diapers, they Slea their Linen quite too high here, which is owing to the Impositions of the Weavers, and the Weavers here appear to be in a Combination against their Employers; this Bleach-yard is well finished, and may be extended to any Size, well Watered, although very expensive, in not having drawn the Water-course properly, good Furnaces, Kieves, and Mill, with Rubbing-boards; there is likewise a good Flax-Mill here, but defers a more particular Account thereof, till his Arrival at *Sligo*; Colonel *Trench* has annually sown a considerable Quantity of Flax, and has settled a Colony of *North Country* Linen Weavers, and this Part of the County of *Galway* is in a promising way; there was a Flax-shop here, which declined two Years ago, and also, a Spinning School, but as the Spinning of Yarn for *Bundle* Linen, has been in Practice in this Neighbourhood Time immemorial, and the Yarn used therein, fit for making *Oznaburghs*, and low priced Sheetings, it is presumed the first Appointment of said School was unnecessary.

Friday the 20th *June*, continued his Journey to *Aughrim*; there is a Flax-shop and Spinning-School in this Place. Mrs. *Gwither* who keeps the Flax-shop, said she employs two Men constantly,

stantly, Buying and Selling *Irish* Flax, so as to intitle her to the Premium of the Board.

The Appointment of either Flax-shop, or Spinning-School, seems unnecessary here, as it is a general Practice to Spin the coarse Yarn for Oznaburghs, Sheetings, and Dowlas, all over this Country; great part of which they weave into *Bundle* Linen, and as the Flax they use is entirely grown here, or in the County of *Roscommon* joining them, the appointing of a Flax-shop, to supply them, was only placing a middle Man, between the Flax-grower and Spinner, thereby to inhance the Price on the one, and lessen the Advantage of the other.

June 20th. Proceeded to *Loughbrea*; there was a Flax-shop, Spinning-School, and Salary for a Flax-dresser, and many Looms granted to the Revd. Mr. *Palmer*, but since his Death in *February* 1751-2, there has been nothing done, the Looms were sold to the best Advantage, and are disperfed over the Country, and chiefly employed in weaving *Bundle* Linen.

June 20th. Proceeded to *Kilcbreeft*; there are many Protestants settled here, brought by Colonel *Perffe* from the *North*, they are mostly Linen Weavers, and this Gentleman has not been wanting in his Efforts, to promote the Increase of the Linen Manufacture in his Neighbourhood; but it shall appear by some future Remarks, how the Pains and Expence of many private Gentlemen have not been productive of such immediate Advantages as could be wished.

Saturday, June 21. Examined a Bleach-Yard at foresaid Place, to which there was a Salary granted for a Foreman in 1751, there is a very good House and a Boyler, but no farther Utenfils equal to any considerable

considerable Undertaking; there were about twenty or thirty Pieces on the Bleach-yard, partly Yard-wide Linens, and partly Diapers, but Col. *Perisse* said, that until this Season there had been a much greater Quantity bleached, he gives the Salary to one *McNish*, a Bleacher from the North, who on Examination appeared to understand his Business, the Materials made use of here, are Kelp, and *Casob* Ashes. Col. *Perisse* observed, that he would have had his Bleach-yard better provided with Utensils, &c. had he received the usual Bounty from the Board for that Purpose.

June 21. Proceeded thence to *Gort*, and examined a Bleach-yard, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1749, the Property of Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, Bart. there are very good Buck-houses, &c. here, neatly flagged, good Boilers and Kieves, the Situation of the Bleach-yard is bad, however the Business is well done, the Goods bleached, are chiefly Yard-wide Linens and Diapers, some few Sheetings, and all flea'd or set too high in the Warp: The Materials used are Kelp and *Casob* Ashes, and no Expence spared in Bleaching. A Mill is wanted to cheapen and expedite Bleaching, which may be erected on easy Terms, and at a convenient Distance from the Bleach-yard. At *Gort* there is a Flax-dresser, and a Yarn Inspector, the Flax-dresser has very little Business, and confessed there were thrice as many in that Neighbourhood as there is Occasion for, he appeared to be ignorant of his Business; the Yarn Inspector is a Man of good Character, there was a Flax-shop and Spinning-school here which are both dropped.

June 22. Proceeded to *Galway* by Way of *Agart*. This Part of the County of *Galway* is chiefly

chiefly employ'd in feeding Sheep, the Inhabitants are but few, and Firing scarce.

June 23. Examined the Bleach-yard of Mr. *John Cox*, to which a Salary for a Foreman was granted in 1750, he commenced bleaching one Year before the Grant, in which Year he said he bleach'd 564 Pieces, but by another Bleach-yard being erected, his Quantity has been lessened to 525 Pieces the last Year, the Price here 2*d.* per Yard, as in most other Places out of the *North*. Mr. *Cox* has no Mill, but said he had a Grant of 50*l.* from the Board to be paid on his having built one, and he has the Timber ready, and purposes being able to claim the Grant next Spring, the Place, and in what Manner to erect his Mill, was pointed out to him; his Workmen brought chiefly from the *North*, his Factory in good Order, except the Goods being generally too high flea'd. The Bleach-yard is but indifferently conducted, and there is no Want of any Necessaries, except Experience and Skill in the Art of Bleaching; Kelp is bought here for about 25*s.* per Ton, and they use Ashes in the latter Part of their Work. Mr. *Cox* by his great Application, has surmounted many Obstacles in introducing the Linen Manufacture here, where such Industry was much wanted; there were a great Number of Inhabitants without any visible Employment, and Necessity must have forced them Abroad, if not thus provided for at Home.

Mr. *Martin*, who has an Estate in the West Part of this County, called *Eyre Connaught*, has at his own Expence introduced the Linen Manufacture, by having put Apprentices twelve of his Tenants Sons to Mr. *Cox's* Weavers, and gave an Apprentice Fee with each of them, and cloathed them during their Apprenticeship, who he intends should be Masters to instruct his other Tenants
Sons

Sons, with each of whom he purposes giving 5*l*. Apprentice Fee.

June 23. Continued at *Galway*, examined a Bleach-yard, to which a Salary was granted for a Foreman in 1750, to *Francis Annesley*, continued after by *Napper Gifford*, now by Alderman *Drury*. The first Year in this Bleach-yard, it is said there were about 300 Pieces bleached, and this last Year about 620 Pieces, the Business of both this and Mr. *Cox's* Bleach-yard is under the Direction of a Person called *Gallagher*, who has little Experience or Knowledge in Bleaching. Both these Bleach-yards are chiefly supply'd with Linens from the Town of *Galway* and Country adjacent, and the plain Linens are all too high slea'd: Half the Manufacture of this Place is Diapers of different Kinds, there is no Use made here of the coarse Pound Yarn, which is the common Branch that engages almost every Woman in the Country, except a little that is wove into *Bundle* Linen, but it is generally bought up to carry into the Counties of *Longford*, *King's-County* and *Dublin*, to be manufactured or exported Gray, the Spangle Yarn manufactured here is chiefly brought out of the County of *Mayo*, which two Circumstances sufficiently show a Necessity for some Alteration in the Branches of the Manufacture this Country is now employed in. From hence proceeded to *Monyvae*, same Day.

Monivae, June 24. Examined a Bleach-yard and Factory here, the Property of *Robert French*, Esq; the Linens bleach'd in this Green are generally Yard-wides, some few $\frac{3}{4}$ and a half wide, and Diapers of different Kinds; it is entirely a new Manufacture set on Foot in this Neighbourhood, both in Spinning and Weaving, for the original Scheme of the

the Inhabitants all through this Country, (where they do any Thing) is spinning coarse Pound Yarn fit for Oznaburghs, Dowlafs, and Sheetings of a low Price, and fuch Part as they weave up is into *Bundle* Linen of 13 to 15 Inches wide, which is a Manufacture peculiar to the Confumption of *Ireland*. This Bleach-yard is fituated in the Verge of a Turf Bogg, and the River that fupplies it with Water turned by a Canal through the Bogg, it may be extended as Occafion requires, the Buck-houfe convenient and ufeul; there are Wash Mill, Rubbing-boards, and a Beetling Engine, and every Sort of Machinery at prefent in Practice and neceffary, the Bufinefs is well done, and the Colours good enough for the Goods, which are generally from 12d. to 20d. per Yard, the Materials as taken Notice of elfewhere in this County, are Kelp and Afhes; Mr. *French* had his head Bleacher inftructed in the *North*, and moft of his Colony of Weavers, are *North* Country Proteftants. The Linens made here are moftly on his own Account, and properly flea'd, owing to his Steward's Son (that now conducts the Manufacture) having ferved an Apprenticeship in the *North*.

* This Gentleman is thoroughly fkill'd in Flax Farming, and differs in this Refpect, from the *Dublin Society* in their weekly Obfervations, which he thinks will neither fuit this Climate or the Genius of our People, however they may take Place in *Germany* or *Holland*.

He has a Grant of 5*l.* a Year to a Flax-drefler, and has for fome Years paft annually raifed a confiderable Quantity of Flax, to fupply the Spin-

* Here is a good Voucher in Support of my Opinion in Pages 115 to 124.

ners in the Neighbourhood, and keep this Flax-dresser employed.

An Account of Linen bleached in the Green at *Monivae*, since the Mill was erected, as returned by Mr. *French*.

in 1750	—	—	3,719 Yards
1751	—	—	8,133
1752	—	—	13,105
1753	—	—	20,010
1754	—	—	about the same Quantity.

Mr. *French* is a Claimant for a Flax Premium in 1753, and has a good Title, his Flax is of a midling Kind, rather short, but useful. In this Province, *Roscommon* excels the other Counties for Quality of Flax.

* It were to be wished that the Gentlemen of this Country would encourage the Weaving of such Linen as is most suitable to the Yarn made by the old Spinners and Natives.

June 24, Proceeded to *Tuam* from *Monivae*; there is a Salary appointed here for a Flax-dresser, but on Enquiry could find no such Person, nor was any such Appointment necessary.

Inquired here about a Flax Premium Claimant, viz. *Patrick Brogan* of *Donabeg* in the Parish of *Dunmore*, and could get no Intelligence of him there, or in other Parts of the County.

June 25. Set out from *Tuam*, and passed thro' *Holymount*, *Minola*, and *Foxford* to *Balyva*, all in the County of *Mayo*.

* The *Bundle Cloth* Manufacture is carried on in a more extensive Way in some Parts of this County, than any where in the Kingdom; there was a Clause to suppress it in the Linen Bill, the 4th of Queen *Anne*, but repealed in 1739. See Pages 42 and 98.

This

This County has become very considerable in raising Flax and Spinning, it is well inhabited, and the Women here spin as great a Quantity of Linen Yarn considering their Number, as the Women in any County in the North, the Yarn made here runs chiefly from 2 Dozen in the Pound, to 3 and a half, some little as high as 6 Dozen, however, for want of some better Regulation to compel them to give good Reel and Count, there is very little statutable Yarn.

There are very few Linen Weavers in this County of any Sort, and so small a Quantity of Linens made, that they depend almost entirely on a foreign Market to take off their Yarn; there is however some part of it wrought up in the Manufactures of *Dublin*, *Cork*, and some other Parts of the Kingdom.

With the Yarn of the Counties of *Sligo* and *Leitrim*, may be carried on some of the most useful Manufactures in the Kingdom; fit for printing, half stiffning, Linings, gray Hollands, Staying, and the different Sorts of *Britanias*; in some of which Articles, your Journalist, hath done a considerable Deal of Business, particularly in Linens for half stiffning, and gray Hollands; he has manufactured and exported above 150,000 Yards within those two Years, and has Samples of them all to produce.

At *Balyva* there was a Spinning-school appointed in 1744, but never carried on, as the People in this Country (knowing their Children would all acquire a Knowledge in Spinning from their Parents as they grew up) would not lose the Labour of any one of their Family for a Penny *per* Day, and this is the only Spinning-school ever appointed in this County.

William Sharp is appointed an Inspector of Linen Yarn here, to whom the Board pay 10*l.* *per Annum*, he is a sober intelligent Man, and I believe if it was possible that any Yarn Inspector, could be of use in the inland Part of the Country, this Man would answer the desired End.

June 27. Set out from *Balyna* for *Sligo*, passed through *Eneacrone* and the Barony of *Terera*, all in the County of *Sligo*. This is a Spinning Country. Examined some of their Yarn, and it wanted about 8 Inches in Length of the Hank, and 22 Threads in the Cut, of one Yard and Quarter long, and 120 Threads, which the Hank and Cut should contain; this Fraud is occasioned by a Number of itinerant Yarn Buyers, who make it their Business to engage the Yarn made in their Neighbourhood, at a Price proportionably low. This Account was confirmed by several Gentlemen of the Country. There are at *Sligo* two Inspectors, *James Gibson* and *James Ware*, one at 12*l.* and the other at 15*l.* *per Annum* Salary; and *John Carson*, Inspector at *Killoony*, not far distant, yet the same Frauds are more flagrant there, than in any other Part of the Country: * But there may be a Scheme found out to remedy those Abuses.

Sligo,

* The Scheme proposed, to make all Yarn above 2 Dozen in the Pound statutable Count and Length, is to appoint an Inspector of good Character at 40*l.* *per Annum* in each Port, from whence Yarn is exported, and give the Dealers in Yarn previous Notice of six Months by a publick Advertisement of the Day the Statutes should be put in full Force, and put those Inspectors under the Direction of some one Man of Character and Influence, that in Case any of them being remiss he might substitute another without Delay in their place; if this was properly executed for one Year, so as to prevent the Merchants from exporting fraudulent Yarn, there is no doubt but the Manufacturers and Weavers would take Care at Home, thereby we might speedily see this Grievance redressed. The Inspectors spoke

Sligo, June 28. Examined a Bleach-yard here, the Property of Mr. *Edward Corkran*, to which a Salary was granted for a Foreman in 1750, this Bleach-yard has been established many Years, formerly under the Care of Mr. *Corkran's* Brother, and there have been Looms and other Advantages granted to a Factory under Mr. *Corkran*; This was the first Introduction of Weaving in this County, Col. *Wynne* was an early Promoter of it, Mr. *Corkran* and his Brother, have always carried it on for their own Account, and have been Manufacturers, Bleachers, and Exporters, and the Manufacture is now increased here so as to employ four Bleach-yards, it is chiefly in low Goods, Yard-wides, and three Quarters and a half wide, some few Diapers, Mr. *Corkran* had a Mill which is now out of Order, but says he will repair it speedily, every other Part of the Apparatus in very good Order, the Business of Bleaching is well done, suited to the Manufacture he carries on, he does a considerable Deal of Business.

June 28. Examined a Bleach-yard the Property of Mr. *Thomas Knox*, to which the Board granted a Salary in 1748, Col. *Wynne* gave this Salary to *Con. O'Donnellan*, but it is now transferred to Mr. *Knox*, who has made a very compleat Bleach-yard, it was fitted up last Year, there are Wash-mill, Rubbing-boards, Beetling Engine, Kieves, Furnaces, &c. in compleat good Order; there was a considerable Quantity of Linens in Hands and on the Bleach-yard, belonging to different People. This Bleach-yard is employed entirely in bleaching for the Country, the Business is

M 2

very

spoke of throughout this Journal, were all struck off the 25th March, 1757, except one in *Dublin*, who is of no Use, and would be a very improper Person to be employed in Case the above Scheme should be put in Execution.

very well done, which will serve the Country in a particular Manner.

There is a Salary for a Flax-dresser here, but there are more itinerant Flax-dressers than can get Business; there is likewise a very compleat Flax-mill here, the Property of *Mitchellburn Knox*, Esq; * who affirmed that he had sown large Quantities of Flax annually for several Years, and dressed it in his Mill, and he is well satisfied, he has thereby lost one Third, or at least a Quarter of the Produce he would have had out of his Flax, if dressed in the common Way by Hand, he therefore concludes that this Scheme is a very bad one, not only prejudicial to every Individual that makes the Experiment, but likewise to the Publick in the Destruction of the Staple of the Country.

Mr. *Knox* was a Candidate in the Year 1753 for the Flax Premium, and seems to have great Merit. Spinning has been long in Practice in this Country. The nearest Bleach-yards to this Town, besides those mentioned, are forty Miles distant, except two, the one at *Swadlingbar* in the County of *Cavan*, about 30 Miles, to which the Board granted a Salary in 1750; the other at *Ballyshannon*, County of *Donnygall*, erected last Year by *Thomas Atkinson*, which it's said is a very compleat one, and about 20 Miles Northward from *Sligo*, therefore all the Yarn made in this Tract of Country, which takes in most Part of *Donnygall*, all *Fermanagh*, great Part of *Monaghan*, almost all *Cavan*, and *Leitrim*, and the greatest Part of this County, which are all great Spinning Counties, is exported, except some small Part the *North* takes off in

* It is said there are Flax-mills of a different Construction made of late, that do answer the End in scutching and preparing the Flax for the Hatchell, but I have not seen any of them that appear so to me.

in it's Manufactures ; the Yarn made all over this Country is generally from 2 to 4 Hanks in the Pound.

June 30. Proceeded to *Swadlingbar*, and examined a Bleach-yard the Property of Mr. *George Grayson*, to which a Salary was granted in 1750, the Manufacture is only creeping into this Country, Mr. *Grayson* not being able to get above two or three hundred Pieces of Linen in the Year to bleach, but the Women are as industrious in Spinning as in any Part of the Kingdom ; there is a Mill erected with Boards, a Furnace, Kieves, &c. suited to the small Manufacture carried on, and the Business of Bleaching is done tolerably well, Mr. *Grayson* disposes of his Linens annually in the Linen-Hall.

The Linens made in this County are, from their Vicinity to the *North*, in general properly flea'd ; Flax Plenty, there has been a Flax-shop appointed, and 8*l.* paid to Mr. *Grayson*, and to Mr. *Atkinson* 7*l.* 3*s.* and no farther Premium will be claimed.

There was a Spinning School appointed here, but never opened, for the same Reasons given at *Ballyna*. There is an Inspector appointed that bears a very good Character, viz. *James Atkinson* at 10*l.* per Annum, he attends many Fairs, &c. There is likewise an Inspector appointed at *Killishandra*, who it is said, receives 15*l.* per Annum, without doing any Thing for it.

July 1. Proceeded to *Enniskillen*, where there is a Flax-shop appointed, the Flax sold, all Foreign, kept by one *Lara* ; this however is an excellent Flax and Spinning Country, but so few Weavers, that the Yarn is almost intirely bought up for Exportation.

July 2. Proceeded through *McGwires-Bridge*, *Newtownbutler*, and *Clownish* to *Cootte-hill*; at *Newtownbutler* there is a Flax-shop granted to *James Elliot*, who raises a good deal of Flax. At *Clownish* there is a Flax-shop granted to *Robert Stephenson*, which is as useless as the rest.

July 3. At *Cootte-hill* there was a Flax shop, kept by *William Young*, a Man of very good Character; the Flax bought in the Neighbourhood; there is a Yarn Inspector here, *Alexander Tate*, who is worse than all the rest.

Proceeded to *Drumcarn*, where *William Newbourgh*, Esq; has a Bleach-yard, to which the Board have granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1750, this is a very compleat Bleach-yard, fitted up in the most useful Way, and provided with all Sorts of Machinery in Practice; it is laid out in such Taste at a little Distance, in the Front of the House, so as to make an ornamental Pleasure Garden, at the same Time that it answers the most useful Purposes; there is a considerable deal of Business well done in this Bleach-yard, this Country reaps great Benefit by Mr. *Newbourgh's* Example. The Goods made all over this Country are Yard-wides, from 10d. to 18d. per Yard; and Ell-wide Sheetings from about 16d. to 2s. 6d. per Yard.

Continued my Journey same Day to *Cavan*.

Cavan, July 3d. There is a Bleach-yard here, the Property of Mr. *John Boyle* to which the Board granted a Salary in 1748, it is situated on a Flat, between two Lakes, where there is not an Opportunity of getting a Fall for a Mill, Mr. *Boyle* has Bleach'd large Quantities formerly, but declined in Quantity of late, owing to his not having Machinery wrought by Water, as in other Places in his Neighbourhood, and he is so much discouraged for want of a Water-fall, and thoroughly

ly satisfied that there is no Possibility of Bleaching so Cheap or Expeditionly without a Water-Mill, Boards, &c. or even finishing Goods so well, that he is letting his Buck-house and Utensils go out of Repair, and has desired to report his Bleach-yard as declined from this Year forward.

Mr. *Boyle* is a Candidate for a Flax Premium, in 1753, and is of Opinion, that the present Scheme for promoting the Growth of Flax, may be much amended.

July 4. Proceeded through *Ballyjamesduff* and *Virginia* to *Kells*; there is a Bleach-yard at *Kells*, to which the Board appointed a Salary in 1751, the Property of Mr. *Hatch*, there is a Mill, and Rubbing-boards, and every part of the Apparatus very good, the Business pretty well done. Mr. *Hatch* depends on the Merchants and Manufacturers of *Dublin*, to supply him with Linens, which are chiefly Sheetings and Dowlafs. This Bleach-yard was begun about the time of the Appointment.

Morton a Yarn-inspector here, is of no use; there is likewise a Grant of some Trifle for a Flax-dresser, that does no Service to the Publick, for there are more of the Trade in this Province, than can find Employment.

Saturday, July 5th. Proceeded through *Atbhoy* to *Trim*, there was a Salary appointed here for a Bleach-yard in 1744, it has been declined some Years.

There was an Appointment for a Flax dresser, but there has been none the last two or three Years.

There is a considerable number of Looms in *Trim*, and many of them kept employed by the Country. Spinning of coarse Linen-yarn fit for Oznaburghs and Sheetings, is in Practice and fa-

miliar to all the lower Class of People through this County, and they might be easily led into the low Manufacture carried on at *Drogheda* from 25 Inches to three Quarters and half-Yard wide.

Somerhill, July 5. Here has been a Spinning-School for some Years, which is still kept up, though the Time of it's Appointment is lapsed, there is likewise a Flax-shop kept by *William Affton*, who has raised a very large Quantity of Flax, in expectation of getting a Premium; it is pretty good, and if there was a number of such Flax-farmers contiguous to *Dublin*, the Market might be supplied without Importing foreign Flax; there are some Linens Manufactured here by *Mr. Affton*, and sold for the most part gray in *Dublin*.

July 7. Enquired at the Charter-School at *Santry*, about the Application of a Salary appointed to a Flax-dresser in 1745, of twenty Pounds *per Annum*; the Governors of this School, had about that time been at a great Expence in introducing here the *Dutch* Methods of Flax-farming, Dressing, &c. and after Building an Oven, and providing every sort of Machinery, and getting a Flax-farmer from abroad to instruct the Children, they had after two or three Years unsuccessful Experiments, entirely declined it.

July 16. Set out for *Dunleer*, found a Spinning School there, and fifteen Scholars in it, kept by *Mrs. Shaw*, it's Usefulness may be ranked with those in other Spinning Countries.

There was a Flax-shop kept here, which has been declined six Months.

July 17. Enquired about a Bleach-yard for which a Salary was granted in 1748, to *Edward Johnston* at *Mooretown*, (alias *Lurgan-green*) it is declined, and

and there never was much done in it, but entirely waste since *November 1751*.

July 17. Examined *George Atkinson's* Bleach-yard at *Balrigan*, to which a Salary was granted for a Foreman in 1749, who has a Mill, rubbing Boards, Kieves, &c. his rubbing Boards are so extremely Clumsey, that they must rather bring an Odium on this useful Invention, than be of any service to the Linen Manufacture. Mr. *Atkinson* does a good deal of Business chiefly on his own Account, but buys his Linens mostly Northward at *Armagh, Rich-bill*, and thereabouts, however the Linen Manufacture has got such footing here, that the Quantity of grey Linens sold out of this Country at *Newry*, &c. may be equal to the Quantity brought into it, from the *Northern Quarter*.

The Linens he Buys and Bleaches, are chiefly low priced Yard-wides, the Materials made use of are Kelp and Cashub Ashes, as is the general Practice all over the Province of *Ulster*!

Dundalk, July 18. * Inquired into the Merits of *Peter Jacob Schravendyke*, a Flax-farmer, brought from *Holland* and fixed here by the Board, this Man was provided by Lord *Limerick* with Houses, Ovens, Ponds, a fining Mill, and all Utensils he called for, so as to enable

* The Schemes proposed in the weekly Observations of the *Dublin Society* (some of which are quoted in Pages 115 to 124) appear to have been carried into Execution with the greatest Exactness here, and the best Crop of Flax that I believe has been known in this Neighbourhood is Quoted, which is no uncommon Produce for good Land, the bad Success in raising *Flanders* Flax, is neither to be ascribed to want of Care or Expence, but must proceed from some latent Causes, either in the Nature of the Soil or Climate; there was a publick Experiment made between the *Dutch* Flax-dressers with their Heckells, and one of our Flax-dressers with the *English* Heckells, which was determined in favour of our own method of dressing Flax.

enable him to bring the Knowledge of Flax-farming in the *Dutch* Method to the highest degree of Perfection in this Kingdom, and at the same time to determine experimentally what Improvements might be made on our own Methods of raising and dressing Flax; this *Dutch*-man is a sensible knowing Man in his Business, and has raised very considerable Quantities of Flax here, some he has coloured Blue in Watering, as is customary in *Holland*; however as this colour depreciates the value of the Tow, and is not essential to the Linen Manufacture, a Knowledge of the method of giving Flax this cast, is not worth Communicating; the fining Mill is a very useful Engine, and at same time very simple, either for softning and mellowing harsh coarse Flax, or re-finishing the best of Flax, so as to prepare it for the finer Branches of the Manufacture; Lord *Limerick* has left no Scheme untried to bring Flax-farming and dressing to the highest degree of Perfection; one Experiment made within these two Years, deserves particular Notice; his Lordship had half an Acre within his Garden prepared in the *Flemish* way, so as to raise Flax fit for Cambric-yarn, such as is annually imported for this purpose from *Flanders*, it has by no means answered the End proposed; the Flax produced, is a long, strong, broad harled Flax, resembling white *Dutch*, but the *Flemish* Flax aimed at by this Experiment, is of a Silkey yellowish Colour, so excessively soft and kindly, that it does not require the Heckell, but a Brush to bring it to almost any degree of Fineness.

There is so great a Spirit of Flax-growing raised among the Inhabitants here, that they now have a considerable Quantity to spare annually; one *Edmond Kelly* had in 1750 or 1751, on fourteen Acres and
a half

a half of Land, recovered from the Sea, four Ton eight hundred weight of clean scutched Flax, which was very good; this will serve to confute such as insist that we should only attempt Flax-farming in the fine Lands of *Limerick* and *Tipperary*, every Potatoe Garden in the Kingdom, is fitter to produce Flax, than any other Ground whatever.

Peter Jacob Schravendyke and *Patrick Kelly* of this Neighbourhood are Candidates for Flax-premiums in 1753, and both have a very good Title; there is a Two-handed Spinning School here, and an Account shall be given of it hereafter; there is likewise a Spinning School in the *French* Method; there are *Dutch* Flax-dressers also, but the *English* Hec-kell, and manner of Dressing practised in this Kingdom, is vastly speedier, and preferable in every Respect.

The Cambrick Factory here, is a very extensive Undertaking, and however it may answer the purpose of those concerned, it certainly has effected this general Good to the Publick, that a proper knowledge of this Branch, in handling the Yarn, Sleaving and Weaving Cambricks, is now diffused all over the Kingdom, and there is scarce a Factory but there are some of the Looms employed on thick or clear Cambricks, for the use of the Neighbourhood.

The Cambrick Bleach-yard is conducted in a different way from any other in this Kingdom, they have three small Furnaces and a Kieve to each, with which they Buck intirely, the Reason assigned for this Step, was, that Bucking is the best Method to preserve the smart Thread, they use no rubbing Boards, but in the *Dutch* Method, on a nicked part of a thick staved Tub, and in every respect pursue the *Dutch* manner of strong Sowers, &c. The Clerk (who is a Man bred to Business, and conversant in the Linen Manu-

Manufacture,) seems desirous of trying the *North Country Method* of Bleaching as practised in those Parts where our finest Linens are mostly finished ; there is a Fall for a Mill at the end of the Cambrick Buck-house, and he purposes to have one erected to try both Methods, in the Bleach-yard next Year ; the Houses are very Roomy, and the Water appears to be very good, and no want of any Utensils that may contribute to the Success of the Scheme ; there were great Quantities of Cambricks in hands, some finished, and they appeared as good as any Foreign in respect to the Manufacturing and Colours.

Peter Jacob Schravendyke mentioned a Fraud committed by Flax-shop-keepers, which though a common Practice, the Board may be unacquainted with, *viz.* that a Person who has an Appointment of a Flax-shop in this Neighbourhood, came to him lately and told him, that he was still about one Ton and a half short of the Quantity for which he could claim the Premium of eight pound *per* Ton, and therefore wanted to buy from Mr. *Schravendyke* the Quantity he was deficient, provided *Schravendyke's* Mother would take it back at a nominal Price, a Trifle lower, by this Method those sort of People do what they term, saving their Oaths.

Castlebellingham, Friday July 18. There was a Salary granted Mr. *Thomas Quin* of this Place, for a Bleach-yard in 1749, who has now declined it, he had a Flax-shop and Spinning School, which are likewise dropt.

There is a Gentleman, Mr. *Egerton* settled here, who it is said, is of great Service to this Neighbourhood, by employing the Poor in the Linen Manufacture, and is doing a considerable deal of Business.

Collan,

Collon, July 19. Examined a Bleach-yard here, made by *Anthony Forster*, Esq; now possessed by Mr. *James Sidebotham*, to which the Board granted a Salary in 1751, this Man is very useful, he came from *Manchester*, and is allowed to bleach Yarn, the best of any in the Kingdom; he covers about thirty Acres with Yarn. Bleaching Yarn does not require a regular Green for Spread-ground, but any Hill that is convenient, such as Pasture-ground, is good enough; this Man has a very fine Bleach-yard, in which he Bleaches a very considerable Quantity of Linens yearly; in 1753, he Bleached for the Journalist eighty-two pieces of Dowls, containing about 3690 yards, 1156 pieces containing about 24276 Yards of a new Manufacture he carries on fit for Linings and low priced *Britannias*, besides a considerable Quantity of Kentings, some common Yard-wide Linens, Huckabacks, &c. He likewise Bleached the same Season, all the Linens that offered from the Country, he uses Kelp and Ashes, some *Barrilla*, a Material approved beyond any other; his Buck-house is a very fine one, and provided with Machinery of the best kind; he was led into unnecessary Expences, that must have cost him at least three or four hundred Pounds extraordinary, by ignorant and imposing Work-men. It is a great Check to the Extension of the Linen Manufacture, that Gentlemen disposed to promote it, are so often deceived by Work-men.

The lower branches of the Linen Manufacture is a plain simple Track, that requires little more Knowledge, than Diligence and Care, to bring it to Perfection. Who ever will view the *North*, where this Manufacture is in the most flourishing State, will find that they seldom are liable to those Extravagancies in Buck-houses, &c. that Gentlemen are but too often led into in the *Southern* Provinces.

Mr.

Mr. *Forster* is a Claimant for a Flax Premium in 1753, and has a good Title; there is a Flax-shop here kept by *James Clarke*, and this Man has raised a large Quantity of Flax formerly.

Drogheda, July 19. Inquired of Messrs. *Jibbs* about a Bleach-yard of theirs, to which a Salary was granted for a Foreman in 1748, they had declined it last Spring was a Year.

There is a very considerable Linen Manufacture carried on in this Town and the adjacent Country, in the coarse Way, mostly about 25 Inches wide, as it is much the same of the Manufacture, and for the same Purposes as the *Bundle* Linen Weavers should be all turned to; there will be Occasion to speak of it again.

Leixlip, July 22. Examined a Bleach-yard, the Property of Messrs. *William Bryan*, and Company, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1748, this is an excellent Improvement, and altho' it was a good Bleach-yard when it came into the Hands of this Company, yet they have expended in Improvements at least 700*l.* since their Commencement. There is One Buck-house with two Pans for bucking, two wooden Kieves, and one Brick Kieve for Lees, another Buck-house with one Boyler and two Brick Kieves of an extraordinary Kind, plaistered over with a Cement, and those for Continuance and preserving Heat in bucking, are esteemed preferable to any other; one Mill-house with one large Water-wheel, two Pair of Washing Stocks, two Pair of Rubbing-boards, one Mill for grinding Ashes, two sowering Kieves, one Callendar, and a Beetling Engine, a large Drying House, the Business is very well executed, and no Ashes but *Barilla* used those three last Years.

An Account of Goods bleached in Messrs. *Bryans* Bleach-yard, the five last Years, as returned from their Books.

1750	3448 Ps. Cottons	96148 Yds.
	755 Fustians	15592
	6 Kentings	227
	122 Linens	5101
	4331 Pieces	117068 Yds. and 12353 lb. Lin. Yarn

1751	2909 Ps. Cottons	87256 Yds.
	710 Fustians	14640
	285 Kentings	5700
		Damasks 255
	391 Linens	11346
	4295 Pieces	119197 Yds. and 9768 lb. Lin. Yarn

1752	2928 Ps. Cottons	87018 Yds.
	592 Fustians	13232
	60 Kentings	1166
		Damasks 326
	201 Linens	4581
	3781 Pieces	106323 Yds. and 10354 lb. Lin. Yarn

1753	3473 Ps. Cottons	101201 Yds.
	253 Fustians	5999
	72 Kentings	1105
		Damasks 280
	268 Linens	6756
	4066 Pieces	115341 Yds. and 11165 lb. Lin. Yarn

1754	3370 Ps. Cottons	98617 Yds.
	557 Fustians	10665
	128 Kentings	2880
	289 Linens	6441
	4344 Pieces	118603 Yds. and 18274 lb. Lin. Yarn

Amount 20817 Pieces 576532 Yds. and 61914 lb. of Yarn,
and as much Work to be done there this Year as the last.

The

The Business in this Yard is of great Importance to this Kingdom in general, and to the Poor of the City of *Dublin* in particular, where this Family have those different Branches carried on; and as those Manufactures are in a great Measure new to this Kingdom, from the Improvement and Extent of them, they are justly deserving of publick Notice; it would be foreign to my Purpose to take Notice of the various and extensive Silk Manufactures they carry on at same Time, were it not to prove that it is such valuable Inhabitants we chiefly want, who make their Genius, Application, and Fortunes, all conspire to enrich themselves and the Publick by the Employment of our People.

Friday, July 25. Passed through *Blessington* to *Baltinglass*, There is very little Flax raised in this Country, which greatly impedes the Progress of the Linen Manufacture, tho' there are numerous Inhabitants; this Part of the Country never can make any Figure without a Linen Manufacture being established among them; there are many *Bandle* Linen Weavers all over it, and there is no Want of Spinners, if they had Flax.

Examined a Bleach-yard at *Baltinglass*, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1750, the Property of *Christopher Shaw*; this is well situated and watered, there is a Mill with all Machinery in Practice, and finished in the most expensive Way, owing to the Extravagance and Ignorance of the Workman, there is one large Boyler and Kieves, &c. sufficient, they boyl intirely with Ashes, and finish their Linens pretty well; the Goods bleached in this Green are Yard-wides, from 10d. to 3s. per Yard, and a considerable Quantity of Damasks, and Diapers, that are made chiefly in and about *Carlow*, and there is a good deal of Business done here.

Carlow,

Carlow, July 26. Examined a Bleach-yard the property of *Philip Bernard, Esq;* to which a Salary for a Fore-man was granted in 1752, this is very compleatly finished, and provided with wash-Mill, Rubbing boards, &c. The Business well executed, and can't fail to give content to the Country, for whom they bleach almost entirely, the Green is very good Ground, and well situated, the Fore-man was brought from *Belfast*, the goods bleached are chiefly Yard-wide Linens, from about twelve Pence to five Shillings *per* Yard, some Diapers, Damasks, and *Bundle* Linen, very little Flax raised in this Country, *Bundle* Linen-weavers very plenty, and the Women would all spin if they had Flax on reasonable terms, the Quantity Bleached in 1752, about 10000 Yards. In 1753, about 25000 Yards. In 1754, about 30000 Yards; and this Year promises still more.

From hence proceeded through *Kill, Tullow* and *Clonnygall*, to *Bunclody* in the County of *Wexford*; this is a well peopled Country, and they all spin up the little Flax they raise, into Yarn, fit for *Bundle* Linen; and this sort of Spinning has been in Practice over this Country Time immemorial.

Bunclody, July 26. Examined a Bleach-yard, the Property of *Mr. George Boyle*; there is no Mill, and the Linen Manufacture seems to be on the decline; *Mr. Boyle* begun here in 1738, and has generally employed from twenty to thirty Looms on his own Account since that time, and having never got any Grant to enable him to build a Mill, nor any Assistance, except a Salary to a Bleacher, and ten Pounds to a Flax-dresser, both in 1748, he has been obliged of late Years, in great measure to decline his Scheme, as he found he neither could Bleach so well or cheap, as the

N

Drapers,

Drapers in *Ulster*, with whom he sold his Linens at the same Market in the Hall of *Dublin*.

He has a fine Piece of Ground for his Bleach-yard, and Fire and Water very convenient, and seems still well disposed to pursue the Manufacture, (to which he was bred in the *North*,) he now Bleaches chiefly for the Country, and finishes the Linens pretty well.

July 27. Proceeded through *Ferns*, *Camolin* and *Clough* to *Gorey*; the Spinning School in *Camolin* declined since *May* last; there are many Inhabitants in this part of the County, and very little but *Bundle* Linen made, and there are many of those Weavers all over this Country; there is not a County in the Kingdom where they are more deficient in the Article of Flax, nor is there a County more improveable.

Gorey, July 28. Examined a Bleach-yard in this Place, belonging to Mr, *Ram*, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Fore-man in 1747, one *Mc. Carty* from *Donybrook* being the Undertaker now, that knows nothing of the matter, has greatly retarded the Success of the Linen Manufacture here; there is not any where a more convenient Situation for a Bleach-yard, being well supplied with good Water and a Conveniency of making a Mill, if they pursue a Manufacture that requires it; however, a Manufacture, such as the *Drogheda* Linen, will best suit this County in general, as Firing is very scarce in this Place, Coals at sixteen Shillings *per* Ton, being the cheapest; Linen Manufactures that require Whitening, consume much Firing. The Quantities Bleached here for several Years, are as follows, by an attested Return. In 1748, 7302 Yards of Linen, and 2640 Yards of Fustians. In 1749, 10723 yards Linen. In 1750, 13011 Yards. In 1751, 13735 Yards. In 1752,

10119 Yards; and in 1753, 12357 Yards. I have no Account of 1754.; but in 1755, there is already come in about 10712 Yards.

The Buck-house is provided with a very good Boyler and Kieves, nothing but Ashes used. There is an Appointment here for a Flax-dresser of ten Pounds *per Annum*. *Hungerford Stains* and his Wife, for whom this Appointment was made, have been engaged very considerably for several Years, in keeping Flax-dressers, raising Flax, and providing the Country with this Material, and if a Flax-shop and Appointment for a Flax-dresser is of use now in any part of the Kingdom, it is in this Place. *Henry Whaley* that has a Flax-shop at *Balicanew* in this County, says, he gets his Flax from the County of *Roscommon*.

Johnstown, July 28. Proceeded through *Ennes-cortby* hither, where there was a Salary granted to a Foreman for a Bleach-yard in 1751; there is a pretty good Mud-wall Buck-house, a large Boyler and one Kieve, but no Situation for a Mill; the work done here as follows, in 1753, about 127 Pieces. In 1754 about 84 Pieces; This Year the Bleach-yard seems to be greatly neglected, and there are come in about twenty Pieces from the Country, there were only thirteen Pieces on the Green; inquired for the Foreman or Manager, but did not see him, Mr. *Cooley* has settled a few Linen Weavers in this Neighbourhood.

Any Grants made here for Spinning Schools, are and were at first useless, as the People could all spin time immemorial, if they had the Material. There were about two Acres of very good Flax near this Bleach-yard.

Tentron, July 29. Proceeded from *Ennes-cortby* hither, through *Clough*, *Balybranon*, *Adamstown-crofs*, *Balyshannon*, *Newbawn*, and *Mulenderry-bridge*; Examined a Bleach-yard, the Property

of *Cesar Colclough*, Elq; to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1750; this Bleach-yard has been carried on these six Years, the Foreman's Name *Brown* from the *North*, understands his Business very well; this Bleach-yard is on a small Stream, not sufficient to supply a Mill, but near a very good Situation, on a River, to which it may be removed; there are about 250 pieces of Yard-wides, three Quarters and half-wide Linens, Diapers, and *Bundle* Linen, (which last is a considerable Manufacture in this Country) annually Bleach'd here, and finished very well; there is no Expence spared, firing is more convenient in this Place, than in many other Parts of this County, very little Flax raised in this Neighbourhood, there had been a Spinning-School here, and like many others unnecessary, and much neglected; the same Children often continued four Years successively, without changing; from hence proceeded by way of Passage to *Waterford*.

Waterford, July 30. Examined a Thread-bleach-yard, the Property of Miss *Sarah Smith*, and Company, to whom a Salary for a Head-bleacher was granted in 1752; this Bleach-yard contains about three Acres, and has been very expensive in forming the Ground, and raising the Plots in the Centre, which last particular, (as it is proper to guard against Extravagancies,) is unnecessary. There is in this Bleach-yard a very commodious Buck-house, with large Boylers, Kieves, for Lees, Sowers, and Bucking; which last is their intire Method, except one Boyle, for the first Turn; the Threads are finished in the best Manner.

In this Bleach yard, likewise all the Yarn for Messrs. *Patrick* and *Arth. Smith's* Sheeting and Linen Manufactures is prepared for the Loom, and likewise all the Yarn and Thread for Mr. *Samuel Smith's* Tape Manufactures, is prepared for the
Machines,

Machines, the Quantities as returned from their Books, are as follow : Those young Ladies have now at Work two double Thread-Mills, of 200 Bob-

bins, — — — — 400
Two, Ditto, of 216 — — 432
Four small Ditto, of 40 160

992 Bobbins.

Threads made by *Sarah Smith* and Company, since they entered into Partnership, and finished for Sale as returned by them.

				<i>l.</i>	<i>ozd.</i>
In	1750	—	—	378	12
In	1751	—	—	679	10
In	1752	—	—	1254	8 $\frac{3}{8}$
In	1753	—	—	2125	$\frac{1}{4}$
In	1754	—	—	4511	4
				8949	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

This Manufacture may equal all the rest of the Kingdom in Quantity, and surpasses in Quality.

Greenville, July 31. Examined a Bleach-yard, the Property of the late *Patrick Smith*, Junior, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Fore-man in 1748 ; it is now conducted by Mrs. *Smith* ; in this Bleach-yard, the fine Ell-wide Sheetings, which are the best in this Kingdom, and Yard-wides, made in the Factory of Messrs *Patrick* and *Arth. Smith*, are Bleached ; all Linens brought in by the Country Bleached here likewise, but diminished in Quantity annually, as other Bleach-yards were erected ; The Tapes of Mr. *Samuel Smith*'s Manufacture, are all Whitened here. This Bleach-yard it is said, was Erected in 1747, contains about seven Acres and is compleatly finished, and provided with Boilers, Kieves, a Mill, and Machinery

of all Sorts in Use, and necessary ; the Water-course has been very expensive in making, owing to the Unskilfulness of the Conductors; They boyle intirely, use Kelp at beginning, and Cashub Ashes afterwards, Butter-milk is the only Sower used all over this Country.

Account of Sheetings and Linens Bleached here, from the Year 1748, to 1755, as Returned, is

Messrs. <i>Smiths</i> say they have Manu- factured in all, From <i>Nov.</i> 1747, to <i>May</i> , 1755, 11346 ps. contain- ing 313814 Yds. of different kinds fit for Bleach- ing and Exporting Grey, amounting to 30609 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	}	In 1748—1417 Pieces about 38259 Yds.
		1749—1239 — — 33453
		1750—1658 — — 44766
		1751—1159 — — 31293
		1752—1117 — — 30159
		1753—1524 — — 41148
		1754—1017 — — 27459
		9131 Pieces 246537 Yds.

The Settling of this Family at *Waterford*, by the Linen Board, has had good Effect in advancing the Linen Thread, and Tape Manufactures ; the last two of these Manufactures, are the Property of Mr. *Samuel Smith* and his Sisters ; there were ten Tape Machines at Work, and two in Hands, that would be at Work speedily, the Workmen both for making the Machinery, and working the Tapes, are *Dutchmen*, brought hither from *Holland*. One of those Machines turns out a great Quantity weekly. The Tapes on Comparison, in well sorted Thread and Yarn, and neat Selveges, good Workmanship and Colour, are equal to any Foreign ; there were in the Ware-house, rough from the Mills, on the Bleach-

Bleach-yard and finished ready for Sale, a large Quantity. About three Miles from this place Mr. *Snow* has been encouraged by the increase of the Linen Manufacture in this Country, to erect a Bleach-yard, where it is said there is not less than 7 or 800 Pieces Bleached annually.

There was a Flax shop appointed here, to Mr. *Chalmers Smith*, but never claimed for since the Order of the Board, limiting the Premium to *Irish* alone, as there is very little Flax raised in this Country; there is likewise, a Two-handed Spinning School, of seventeen Scholars, on coarse Yarn, for a particular Branch of the Tape Manufacture. The County of *Waterford* is as deficient in raising Flax as *Wexford*, and they use foreign Flax almost entirely, which has increased the Import of this Article greatly, since the general Introduction of the Linen Manufacture, in this Town and Country. *Bandle* Linen, was an Original Manufacture of this County, time out of mind; and Flax alone was wanted in this Country. Mr. *Samuel Smith* Erected a Flax-Mill here, and it's Usefulness has been described at *Sligo*; however, he has built a good House, that may be converted into a Buck-house, and has adjoining it a Piece of Ground fit for a Bleach-yard.

Greenville, August 1. Examined a Bleach-yard, the Property of *John Green*, Esq; to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1750; there is an extraordinary good and convenient Buck-house built here, with Mill and every sort of Apparatus necessary and useful, provided with Judgment without Profusion. This *Green* is well Situated and Watered, may be extended to any Degree from the Convenience of the Ground; the highest Colours, and best finished Linens, during the Course of this Inspection were here.

This Gentleman has annually raised a considerable Quantity of Flax, and has been very instrumental in leading his Tenants and Neighbours into the same laudible Scheme; he begun Bleaching about the Time of his Appointment; and has been very considerable, both as a Manufacturer and Bleacher; the Goods made chiefly are Yard wides from the lowest to the highest Price. Mr. *Green* has still a Spinning School, which he is of Opinion is of great Use, it is well taken care of, but Flax alone is wanted, not a Knowledge in Spinning.

Mr. *Green* is of Opinion, that the Poor-house Scheme, of encouraging the Sale of foreign Flax and Tow, in so considerable a manner, has been a greater Obstruction to Flax-farming in the un-experienced Counties in his Neighbourhood, than can be easily perceived, and this Scheme has in a great Measure counterballanced all the Premiums hitherto given for raising *Irish* Flax.

Mr. *Green* exports his Linens generally to *England* for Sale, and the Amount Bleached, as Returned, is as follows.

In 1751. Manufactured by *John Green Esq;* 250 Pieces.

Taken in to Bleach for the Country 400

			650 pieces.
1752	Manufactured	380	
	Taken in to Bleach	850	
			1230.
1753	Manufactured	400	
	Taken in to Bleach	1450	
			1850.
1754	Manufactured	430	
	Taken in to Bleach	950	
			1380.
1755	Manufactured	520	
	Taken in to Bleach	1150	
			1670.

N. B. The Decrease of Linens taken in to Bleach since 1753, is Accounted for by the Addition of three new Bleach-yards being Erected that Year, viz. Mr. *Griffith's*, Mr. *Snow's* and Mr. *Briscoe's*.

Maidenball,

Maidenball, August 2. Proceeded hither through *Knoctopher*, and examined a Bleach-yard, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1751, the Property of *Richard Griffith*, Esq; This Gentleman has built an excellent Buck-house on the Side of the *Nore*, and like some others instanced, has been led into unnecessary Expences by ignorant Workmen; there is a great deal of Money thrown away here in preparing Boylers, Kieves, and Machinery equal to any Undertaking; but this Gentleman very justly observes, that he has begun at the wrong End, for he should first have been secure of a Manufacture equal to his Preparations for bleaching; he depends almost entirely on the Country for Business, and this is the third Year of his Bleaching, and so few Linens sent in, is owing to a Multiplicity of Bleach-yards in this Neighbourhood, that it is scarce worth attending. Mr. *Griffith* has settled some Protestant Weavers about him; there are more Spinning Schools in this County, than any County in *Munster* or *Leinster*, and all the Money expended on them is thrown away, as the Women can all spin if they had Flax.

August 2. Proceeded to *Kilkenny*, where Alderman *William Collis* lives, who had formerly been a Contractor for raising Flax, and still continues to raise great Quantities, he makes use of the *Dutch Oven* for drying his Flax, and is of Opinion, stacking over Year is prejudicial, and agrees with Mr. *French* in other Respects relating to Flax Farming as taken Notice of at *Monyvae*, County *Galway*. * This Gentleman has formed some
Plans

* It will scarcely be believed that Schemes of such mighty Consequence to the Staple Manufacture of this Kingdom, could be so long neglected, had this ingenious Gentleman been the
Native

Plans deserving Notice ; the first, is a Water Machine by which he takes off the Bows of Flax, and breaks them at same Time, which requires only Children to attend it without Danger of Damage ; the next is an Engine, into which he throws those broken Bows, and separates the light Chaff from the Seed, and by Degrees of Progression brings out the Flax-seed at once finished and perfectly clean fit for sowing, those Machines, like all useful Engines are very plain and simple when examined, and Plans of them might be of general Use if made publick. It is evident to every Man of Experience, that the Danger of Flax-seed being spoiled by the Bows heating before they are broke and separated, and difficult in breaking them are two of the nicest and most troublesome Tasks in saving our own Flax-seed.

Alderman *Colles* is of the same Opinion with *Mitchellburne Knox*, Esq; in Respect to a Flax-mill, from some Experiments he had seen made, and gets his Flax all drest by Hand ; he is also of Opinion with *John Green*, Esq; in Respect to the Poor-House Scheme of encouraging Foreign Flax, and said he had met with greater Difficulties (by means of a Ware-house kept in *Kilkenny* to sell at the *Dublin* Prices,) than can possibly be described, and without the most indefatigable Pains and Perseverance, all Flax Farmers would have been obliged to drop the Scheme, especially in these unexperienced Counties, where the superior Quality of *Irish* Flax over Foreign is not known to the Inhabitants, as the latter shews better to the Eye.

Inquired

Native of some other Country, there is no Doubt but he would have met with Patrons ere this, who would have obtained for him Rewards suitable to his great Merit, and rendered his Machinery of general Use to the Publick.

Inquired into the Merits of Claimants for Flax Premiums in 1753, in this County and *Carlow*, viz. *Francis Dillon*, *Martin Kelly*, and *Nicholas Shee*, and from the best Accounts they may have Titles equal to their Pretensions; however this is a very uncertain Method of giving Premiums, as one Man may claim for Flax not half scutched, and thereby exceed in Weight another of far superior Merit.

Bessborough, August 4. Proceeded from *Kilkenny* hither, where there is a Bleach-yard, the Property of Mr. *Shaw*, to which a Salary was granted for a Foreman in 1740, he has kept a Bleach-yard here near forty Years, and was one of the first that introduced any Thing better than a *Bundle* Linen Manufacture in this Country, and since his Settlement the Linen Trade has been daily increasing; he has now a very good Bleacher from the *North*, and finishes Linens very well, he has a Horsemill, a very good Buck-house, plentifully provided with every necessary and convenient Utensil, and no Expence spared in Stuff, to give Content to the Country for whom he bleaches chiefly, the Quantity bleached last Year, was 835 Pieces for the Country, and 125 Pieces of his own Manufacture, in all 960 Pieces, chiefly low priced Yard-wide Linens.

Mr. *Shaw* in 1754, sowed five Acres of Flax, which produced One Ton, eleven hundred and fourteen Pounds clean scutched, the Flax is all drest and disposed off to a Trifle. This is the second greatest Produce met with.

Near this, there is another Bleach-yard, the Property of Mr. *Briscoe*, it is a very good one, the House and all Utensils compleatly fixed, provided with a good Water-mill, and all Machinery necessary, and
much

much the same Quantity of Linens bleached here as at Mr. *Shaw's*.

Clonmell, August 5. Came hither from *Carrick-on-sure*, examined a Bleach-yard the Property of Mr. *Jo. Grubb*, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1750, this Bleach-yard is provided with a good Mill and all necessary Machinery, the Business pretty well done; he is a considerable Manufacturer, there are several Spinning Schools appointed in this County, and they are all as unnecessary as in the *North*, as the Women can all spin one Sort or other of Linen Yarn, if they had Flax, but it is as much wanted here as any where; there was a Spinning School appointed for the Corporation Land of *Clonmell* in 1751, and only kept one Year.

From hence proceeded through a rude uncultivated, and thinly inhabited Country, through *Four-Mile Water*, *Balinamult*, *Scart*, and *Dromana*, all in the County of *Waterford*.

Villierstown, August 6. Examined a Bleach-yard and Factory, the Property of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Grandison*, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1750, this is a very good Improvement, and there is no House, Utensil or Machine necessary or in Practice, but is provided in the greatest Perfection here, the Stuff used is Kelp and Casub Ashes; this Place is a Colony of Protestants formed into a Village, at the Expence and under the Care of his Lordship, the Houses neat and convenient, the People well chosen, and the Linen Manufacture in a healthful flourishing Situation; there is a careful, intelligent Superintendant, by whose Means the Linens (which are generally low-priced Yard-wides,) are properly flea'd and made; the Bleach-yard is well conducted; their Market for Sale is chiefly the Hall in
Dublin,

Dublin, there is one Half-penny *per* Yard more paid for Weaving all Sets beyond the common Usage and Custom; however this is no Objection here, as his Lordship's View is to make the Poor happy by their Industry, and not to make a Profit to himself.

The Quantity of Linens bleached here the two last Years, and Part of the current Year, is as follows, *viz.* in 1753—1028 Pieces; in 1754—1200 Pieces; the 6th of *August*, 1755—1203 Pieces of his Lordship's, and 160 Pieces belonging to the Country.

There is a Common Spinning School and a two handed one here; a Grant for a Flax-dresser, his Lordship is obliged to provide the Spinners with Foreign Flax almost intirely, as there is very little raised in this Country; the greatest Part of the Yarn for this Factory is brought from the *North* and *Connaught*.

August 7. Proceeded to *Youghall* in the County of *Cork*, this Country is entirely destitute of any Linen Manufacture, (except a few *Bandle* Linens made,) the Quantity of Flax raised is very inconsiderable, there is no where a more improveable Country, and at same Time full of Inhabitants.

August 8. Proceeded to *Castlemartyr* through a populous Country, and very capable of Improvement; there is a small Bleach-yard here, the Property of *Robert Milikin*, to which a Salary was granted in 1746, it is well watered, and an Opportunity of making a Mill if necessary, however the Quantity of Linens made in this Neighbourhood as yet, is so inconsiderable that there is not Work for a Bleacher; his Wife has a Thread-mill and makes very good Thread, and the Colour of the Linens whitened here is pretty good; there are a considerable Number of *Bandle* Linen Weavers in this Country, and the Breadth of
this

this Linen in *Munster* and *Leinster* does not exceed 13 to 15 Inches. Proceeded same Day to *Cork*.

Cork, August 9. Inquired about a Bleach-yard of *Thomas Furlong's*, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1749, but was informed he died about last *November*, he had some Share in a Bleach-yard belonging to one *Peacock*, who was a Bleacher here many Years. *Peacock's* Widow and the Foreman continue the Business: Said *Furlong* had a Grant of twenty Looms, which are now employed by different People. Mr. *Curry* carries on the Linen and Cotton Manufacture very extensively here, and Messrs. *Newson* and Company, deal pretty considerably in the same Way.

Near this City and in it are carried on the only Sail Cloth Manufactures worth Notice at present in the Kingdom; *Douglas's* Factory, the Property of Messrs. *Pery, Carleton, &c.* contains about 100 Looms, with Boilers, Cisterns, Kieves, and every Apparatus for preparing the Yarn to that Number, which they kept employed till the Duty on *Irish* Sail Cloth, that had drawn the Bounty was laid on in *England*; the Hemp manufactured there now is entirely Foreign; their Sail Cloth is equal, if not superior to any Foreign, they have been so much discouraged by the *London* Market (to which they export entirely) of late Years, and the Duty charged in *England*, with other Occurrences, as to reduce their Number of Looms to about fifty, and those are now employed. There is also another Factory carried on in this City, by Mr. *Francis Price*, who has twenty-six Looms employed, his Apparatus proportionably good, and the Fabrick and Colour of his Goods inferior to none. There is a very considerable Quantity of Flax brought to Market here annually from about *Clonakilty, Skibereen*, and *Dunmanway*, it is half hackled, and sold about 6d.

per

per Pound ; the Quantity this Year is computed at twenty Tons, there is good Flax imported from *New-York*, have brought a Sample of it to lay before the Board.

Doneraile, August 11. Examined a Bleach-yard belonging to Mr. *William Shaw*, to which the Board granted a Salary in 1752, this is badly situated, and the Business done but poorly, owing to their bleaching in the *Cootehill* Manner without watering ; however there is a good deal of Business done, as there is no other Bleach-yard within 20 Miles of it ; the Utensils are good, there is not a more promising Country in the Kingdom, for establishing the Linen Manufacture in, than from *Cork* through *Mallore* to this Place, and it is at same Time very populous ; in 1752 there were bleached here about 200 Pieces, and this Year he has got in 425 Pieces from the Country ; there is a *Bundle* Linen Manufacture carried on all over this Country, and they understand raising Flax ; there is a small Appointment to *William Stones*, Flax-dresser here, who seems to understand the Business.

August 13. Proceeded to *Ennis-Shannon* ; where there is a Bleach-yard, to which a Salary for a Foreman was granted in 1749, This is one of the best Improvements of the Sort in the Kingdom, every Part is commodious and useful, suited to the extensive Manufacture carried on ; making the Water course has been attended with an uncommon Expence, owing to some Rocks in the Way, and unskilful Projectors ; there is a good Mill with all necessary Machinery, Boylers, Kieves, &c. suited to the Undertaking, without Profusion ; there is a Factory built by *Thomas Adderly*, Esq; which forms a Town, and the Linens made are for his own Account. The Quantity from the 29th of *September*, 1749, to the 1st of *August*, 1755, inclusive, as returned from their Books, and bleached in this

this Green, are 8488 Pieces, containing 247,333 Yards, amounting to 16078 *l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* and were as follows, Yard-wides from 9*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* per Yard; Yard half quarter Sheetings from 9*d.* to 15*d.* per Yard; Ell-wide Sheetings from 14*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3*s.* per Yard; $\frac{7}{8}$ wide Linen from 9*d.* to 18*d.* Diapers of all Sorts and Breadths from 9*d.* to 5*s.*; Cambricks from 2*s.* 9*d.* to 6*s.* Dimeties from 20*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* and Cottons for Gowns and Furniture. There has been bought in this Town, since the 29th of May, 1752, 600 *l.* Value of Linen Yarn of all Sorts, the principal Part of the Remainder of the Yarn used here was brought from *Connaught*; before that Time the Yarn brought to Market was not worth Notice, the greater Part of the Linens made in this Factory are vended in the Country, and the Remainder sold to Merchants for Exportation; the Country did send in about 50 Pieces to bleach the first Year, and has increased annually, the Quantity is now about 500 Pieces; there is no Part of this Manufacture neglected, owing to Mr. *M'Creight*, a very ingenious intelligent Man, who superintends it; there has been a considerable Quantity of Flax raised here annually, by Mr. *Adderley*, and there is an Appointment for a Flax-dresser, and it will be of no use once a general Scheme for growing Flax is put in Execution.

* The Yarn made in the two handed Spinning School in *Dublin*, has been brought hither to manufacture,

* This is the Production of Doctor *Home's* famous *Scotts* Woman's Instructions, as taken Notice of in Page 68, and had the *Scotch* been our most inveterate Enemies, they could not have projected a more likely Plan to destroy us, provided our Spinners had been as ready to follow the Dictates of the Linen Board, as they seemed inclinable to promote this Scheme, and as there have been Advertisements published about this two handed Spinning Scheme, that are as void of Truth as Probability

nufacture, and it is so uneven in the drawing and twisting, that it never will answer any other Purpose than to destroy all our Manufactures (if continued) as it would have done this Factory, had it not been laid aside.

August 14. Proceeded to *Kinsale*, where there are a few Looms kept imployed by *Dennis Keiff*, there had been a Spinning School here which was only kept one Year; there is a good deal of Flax raised in this Country, and manufactured chiefly into *Bundle Linen*, or sold in *Cork*, the Country very populous, and fit for a Linen Manufacture of any sort, abounding with Firing and fine Brooks and Rivulets.

August 15. Proceeded through *Ennis Shannon* to *Bandon*, where there was a Bleach-yard and Linen Manufacture, carried on by a Gentleman of the Town, but it is declined; from hence proceeded to *Dunmanway*.

Dunmanway, August 16. Examined a Bleach-yard, the Property of *Patt. Me-Giverin*, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1746. This is extremely well situated, and watered, and great Plenty of Turf Firing all over this Coun-

bility, shall detain the Reader with some Account of it. It has been published that a Woman that is capable of spinning only one Dozen in the common Way, may spin near three in this Manner as if taking from the one Hand almost the whole Assistance of the other, should be a Means of her doing near treble the Work, but the worst Circumstance is, its being so uneven both in the Thread and Twisting, that it is neither fit for Warp or Weft; this I know from Examination, and supposing the Yarn to be as good as can be made, the Two handed Spinner will be found to lose more daily to the Employer, by drawing the Flax within the Staple, than the Value of spinning a few Cutts more will be sufficient to Counterbalance.

try; it is capable of being made as good as any in the Kingdom; however this Man being bred at *Cootehill*, when dry bleaching was entirely the Custom there, does not know the Use of a Command of Water. The Bleaching is very tedious, and but indifferent, which has greatly retarded the Progress of this Factory, which is established on the best Plan of any out of *Ulster*. Sir *Richard Cox*'s first Care was to incourage Flax Farming, so as to provide Material enough for the Spinner. This good End he has gained, and the Flax brought to *Cork* Market is mostly from this Country.

His next Care was to promote Spinning, and shall refer to his Letter to Mr. *Prior* for the Particulars of that Scheme: The Effects produced by it are wonderful in this Part of the Kingdom; for altho' there are about seventy Looms at Work on Yard Wides and Three Quarters and Half wide Linen, from the lowest to the highest Pitches, Cambricks and Diapers, yet there is more Yarn made here than they all can use, some of which is bought up for the Factory of *Ennis Shannon*, and some part for a small Factory carried on at *Killarny*. Sir *Richard* distributes annually about a hundred Wheels more than he gets from the Board, to the poor Women in the Country, on their giving sufficient Security to keep them in Repair, and produce them on the Review Day which is once a Year. This is now the cheapest Yarn Market in the Kingdom, Yarn from two to four Dozen in the Pound, being sold at 18*d.* per Spangle, or 4*d.* halfpenny, per Hank, full Count and Length. Sir *Richard* has always avoided holding any Share in the Trade, but rather chose to lend moderate Sums of Money from Time to Time, to such Weavers as were of approved

proved Sobriety and Care, and left the Employment of the rest to them ; by which Means he has here the Draper, Manufacturer, Weaver, Spinner, and Flax Farmer, each dependant on the other, and all independant of him.

The Linens made for account of those concerned in the Factory, are properly sleaed, but those taken in to work for the Country, as high set and crowded in the Warp as any place taken notice of. There are two Bleach-yards more erecting here, with Mills, and all Machinery, by some of the Inhabitants of the Town. The Undertaker of one of those Bleach-yards, appears to understand bleaching ; so that this Factory is likely to be in a promising Situation, in having the Linens expeditiously and properly bleached, which was the only Part they were deficient in. Sir *Richard* has always been very cautious in the Choice of People to fix here, and has constantly discouraged Idlers, by which Means, there is neither a Family or Loom unimployed.

There is a Grant for a Flax Dresser, in this Place, the Money of which, he distributes in Premiums and Wheels. *

Bandle

* Having in many Parts of this Inquiry, as in Page 133. refer'd to a farther Account of the Preference due to coarse Spinners and Weavers in this Kingdom, I shall now give an Estimate of two Spinners, the one suppos'd in *Ulster* in their Way, and the other in *Munster* or *Connaught*, in their usual Practice, the Accounts stand thus ; give to each six Pound of *Irish* Flax, of equal Quality, valued at 3d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Pound.

Bundle Linen Weavers are very numerous in this part of the County, there are many about this Town,

	s.	d.
In <i>ULSTER</i> the Spinner gets it hackled and produces two Pound and a Half of Tare or Flax that she spins into three Hank Yarn, which produces $7\frac{1}{2}$ Dozen of Yarn scarcely worth $5d.\frac{1}{2}$ per Dozen, at this Time Value	3	$5\frac{1}{4}$
And two Pound of Tow produces 4 Dozen of Yarn scarcely worth $4d.\frac{1}{2}$ per Hank	1	6
And Backs a Pound, fit for Candle Wick Yarn, Value	0	1
	5	$0\frac{1}{4}$

The Account of the Spinner is for 6 Pound rough Flax at $3d.\frac{1}{2}$ is. 9d. and Dressing Flax and Tow, $3d.\frac{1}{2}$ for $7\frac{1}{2}$ Days on Flax, at a Dozen per Day, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ Days on Tow, computing for one of the best and speediest Spinners, at $3d.$ per Day, in all, $5s.\frac{1}{2}$, which is $\frac{1}{4}$ th. short of the Spinners Wages—	5	$0\frac{1}{2}$
In <i>MUNSTER</i> or <i>CONNAUGHT</i> , the Spinner hackles the 6lb. of Flax herself slightly, so as to take out about one Pound of coarse Tow, and spins the remaining 5 Pounds into Yarn, about 12 Cuts to the Pound, at 9 Cuts per Day, this is at present worth 9d. per Pound	3	9
One Pound of roughing Tow or Backs fit for Sacken, Value	0	1

The Account of the Spinner is for 6 lb. of Flax at $3d.\frac{1}{2}$ is. 9d. the Spinner, at 9 Cuts per Day, computed moderately, is 7 Days allowing time for Dressing the Flax valued as before, at $3d.$ per Day	3	10
	3	6

Ballance 0 4

Here is Fourpence Farthing advantage to the Spinner on this small Experiment ; and I have no doubt of this Computation being just, and in respect to Weaving, I shall appeal to all Manufacturers and Weavers conversant in both the Coarse and fine Branches, whether there are any plain Linens on which Workmen can earn more Wages than on *Oxnaburghs*. If these Representations are Facts, it is most certainly the Interest of the Nation to imploy our Inhabitants in the most profitable Way, and more especially, as it is the most extensive and useful.

Town, forty at least in and near *Clonakelly*, as many in *Skibbereen*, and so in Proportion, all over the South-West Part of this County ; these, Sir *Richard* sets no Value on and never allowed one of them to settle in his Town, where he has built excellent Houses, and fill'd them with Protestant Weavers, chiefly brought from the *North* ; Gentlemen are happily circumstanced in this Country, in having such an inestimable Number of useful Workmen amongst them, if they were employ'd in Manufactures that would suit a Foreign Market.

August 17. Proceeded to *Macroon*, there has been some little done in this Neighbourhood in the Linen Manufacture, there are many *Bundle* Linen Weavers in this Country, and Spinners of Pound Yarn.

August 18. Proceeded to *Mill-street*, and *Killarny* ; there is a Bleach-yard near this Place, the Property of Mr. *Martin Murphy*, to which a Salary was granted for a Foreman, in 1750 ; there is a good deal of Business done here ; the Utenfils are very good ; he raises a considerable Quantity of Flax annually ; he had about seven Acres on the Foot that looked very well ; he has a Spinning-School which is useless ; as the People in this Country can all spin coarse Yarn, and it abounds with *Bundle* Linen Weavers, Mr. *Murphy* has a Factory some Distance off, where he has built very good Houses, and has Twenty Looms employed, they were at work on low Yard wifes, chiefly, which he disposes of in his Shop ; he is a very industrious Man.

August 19. Proceeded to *Castlemain*, the Country from *Killarny* hither, is pretty full of People, and they do a good deal in the *Bundle* Linen Manufacture.

August 20. Proceeded to *Dingle-Icough* ; there is a small Bleach-yard at this Town, to which a Salary of *5l. per Annum*, was granted in 1747, to *Timothy Conellan* ; the Linens bleach'd are pretty well finished, this Man has a good Boiler, and seems to be very industrious, he bleaches about 150 Pieces annually, chiefly Yard Wides ; there has been a Spinning School here, but the Appointment was useless, for there is not in all *Munster* more industrious Inhabitants, than on this Point, between *Dingle* and *Tralee* Bays, in the *Bandle* Linen Manufacture ; and it is computed, that there is not less than 1500 *l.* Value of *Bandle* Linen yearly, sold in *Dingle*, to carry down towards *Cork*, and the Lower Parts of *Munster*. From hence proceeded the same Day to *Tralee*, through a Country, some Part of which is extremely populous, and all employ'd in the same Manufacture.

August. 21. Proceeded to *Ardart* ; there is a Spinning School in this Place for 40 Scholars, many of them at work on Statutable Yarn, this School has been well taken care of, under the Direction of *Lady Crosbie* ; and there is a Linen Manufacture set on Foot in this Town and Neighbourhood, of Yard Wides and Diapers for the Home Consumption of the Inhabitants. *Mr. Crosbie* has lately finish'd a compleat Bleach-yard, and has three good Hands in it, that understand their Business, and altho' it had not been compleated above two Months, there had come in about 200 Pieces of different Kinds, this is situated on such a Flat, that there cannot be a Water Mill erected ; there are very good Utensils provided, and a convenient good House ; the *Bandle* Linen Manufacture, is carried on all over this Country, and a considerable Quantity of Flax raised, but in no proportion to what is necessary. This is a well inhabited Country, and the Lands good, Fire and
Water

Water in Plenty, and every Thing conspiring to make them happy, if a Linen Manufacture was generally established among them.

August 22. Proceeded through *Lixna, Listowel,* and *Abbyfield*, to *Newcastle* in the County of *Limerick*, where there is scarcely any Thing done, except in *Bandle* Linen, and those Weavers are very numerous in this Town and Country, it being computed, that there are at least 400 of them employed in this Manufacture, in about fourteen Miles distance *Eastward*, towards the County of *Cork*. From hence proceeded to *Rathkeal*, and here inquired about *Christopher Modler*, a Claimant for a Flax Premium in 1753; he is a Man of very good Character, but by the Return made of his Quantity claimed, he must be a very unsuccessful Farmer, as he only Returns five hundred Weight clean scutched Flax produced off 12 A. 24P. From hence proceeded through *Adair*, to *Limerick*. The raising of Hemp is in a great Measure dropt all over this Country, and from the best Information, it appears to have been but a forced Scheme, and not natural to the Climate or Soil, and from the many native Advantages in favour of the Linen Manufacture, the not employing Lands and People in raising Hemp, should rather be considered as an Experiment determined to the Advantage of the Publick than otherwise.

Limerick, August 23. Inquired into the Merits of Claimants for Flax Premiums in 1753, but as the Accounts of them in this Province are very different, and no possibility of judging at this Distance but from Character, can give no Account of them; one of the Claimants, Mr. *Robert Horan* raises a considerable Quantity of Flax annually, some of last Year's Produce is very good; there is a considerable deal of Business done in the Linen Manu-

facture in this Place, and it is getting some footing in the County of *Clare*; there are Bleach-yards both here and in *Clare*, and *Bandle* Linen Weavers and Spinners of coarse Pound and some Statutable Yarn are very numerous.

August 25. Proceeded through *Carrick-in-Lisb*, *Pallace*, *Cullen*, and *Tipperary* to *Cashell*; this Country is very thinly inhabited, the Towns populous, many of those *Bandle* Linen Weavers in them, and some few others, the Women are all Spinners of the coarse Pound Yarn; at *Cashell* there is a new Bleach-yard, made by *Ellis Chandlee*, very well fitted up and provided with Machinery of all Sorts, and there has come in this Year, upwards of 300 Pieces of different Kinds; there is a small Factory carried on here by *William Nuttar*, and Mr. *Robert Turner*, one of the Flax Claimants of 1753, he has his Flax still on Hands, it is very short and ordinary.

August 26. Proceeded to *Thurles*, this Country is in the same Situation as the last recited.

August 27. Proceeded to *Castle Durrow*, this Country is more in the Way of raising Flax and Spinning, and Flax alone is wanted.

August 28. Proceeded to *Ballyroan*, the Spinning School of this Place it is said is kept at *Ballinakill*, they raise a good deal of Flax in this Country and can all spin; it is well peopled and very fit for the Linen Manufacture. From hence proceeded to *Munstereven*; where there is a Bleach-yard, to which the Board granted a Salary for a Foreman in 1754, the Property of Mr. *Felix O Neil*; there is a tolerable Buck-House, and good Utensils, the Business pretty well done; the Account of Business done, as returned to me, was in 1754, about 140 Pieces of Yard-wides, and $\frac{7}{8}$ ths, Mr. *O Neil's* own Manufacture this Year, about 160 Pieces ditto, and

and in this Time about 500 Pieces bleach'd for the Country.

Johnstown, County of Kildare, September 12. Examined a Bleach-yard and Factory, the Property of Mr. *William Rose*, to which there was a Salary for a Foreman granted in 1744. This is a very good Improvement, provided with all necessary Machinery of the best kind; the Bleach-yard may be enlarged at pleasure; Kelp and Cashub Ashes, and some of the *Spanish* Barilla are used, the Businefs well done; there is a very expensive Dry-house built here, the simplest easy Schemes by which the desired End may be obtained in any Branch of the Linen Manufacture, should be rather recommended, it is believed some part of this Expence might have been spared; Mr. *Rose* is a very industrious Man, and has established the Linen Manufacture, at this place in a considerable way, the Account returned of the Business done, is as stated below; there are convenient Houses built for the Weavers, and three Damask Looms at Work.

In The Year 1751.

506 ps. $\frac{3}{4}$ wide Sheeting	22186 Yds. from 18d. to 3s. 6d. per Yd.
82 ps. $\frac{3}{4}$ ——— Sheeting	5617 Yds. from 12d. to 16d.
117 ps. Yd. wd. Linen	2962 Yds. from 12d. to 9s.
66 ps. sundry Diapers	2406 Yds. from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ wide.
74 ps. Lawns ———	1870 Yds. from 2s. 2d. to 5s.
121 ps. $\frac{3}{4}$ Huckaback	4809 Yds. from 12d. to 16d.
966 pieces.	39850 Yards.

7000 Hanks high white Yarn, for Thread and Stocking-weavers

The

The Year 1752.

368 ps. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sheeting	—	24384 Yds. from 18d. to 3s. 6d.
49 ps. $\frac{2}{8}$ Sheeting	—	3607 Yds. from 12d. to 16d.
131 ps. Yd. wide Linen		3395 Yds. from 12d. to 9s.
82 ps. fundry Diapers		3068 Yds. from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 Yd. wides.
55 ps. Lawns	—	1380 Yds. from 2s. 2d. to 5s.
82 ps. $\frac{3}{4}$ and Y. w. Huck.		2995 Yds. from 12d. to 18d.
153 ps. $\frac{7}{8}$ wide Linen	—	3171 Yds. from 10d $\frac{1}{2}$. to 13d.
1120 pieces		42000 Yards.

19500 Hanks high white Yarn, for Thread and Stocking-weavers.

The Year 1753.

197 ps. $\frac{1}{4}$ wide Sheeting	8307 Yds. from 18d. to 3s. 6d.
52 ps. $\frac{2}{8}$ Sheeting	— 3794 Yds. from 12d. to 16d.
817 ps. Yd. wide Linens	20966 Yds. from 12d. to 9s.
61 ps. fundry Diapers	2320 Yds. from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 Yard-wides.
56 ps. Lawns	— 1377 Yds. from 2s. 2d. to 5s.
79 ps. $\frac{3}{4}$ and Yd. wd. Huc.	2680 Yds. from 12d. to 18d.
178 ps. $\frac{7}{8}$ Linen	— 3659 Yds. from 10d $\frac{1}{2}$. to 13d.
1440 pieces.	43103 Yards.

5000 Hanks high white Yarn for Thread and Stocking-weavers.

The Year 1754.

181 ps. $\frac{1}{4}$ wide Sheetings	7656 Yds. from 18d. to 3s. 6d.
44 ps. $\frac{2}{8}$ Sheeting	— 3207 Yds. from 12d. to 16d.
211 ps. Yard-wide Linen	5214 Yds. from 12d. to 9s.
56 ps. fundry Diapers	2172 Yds. from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ° wide
47 ps. Lawns	— 1203 Yds. from 2s. 2d. to 5s.
41 ps. Huckabacks	— 1676 Yds. from 12d. to 18d.
751 ps. $\frac{7}{8}$ Linen	— 15503 Yds. from 10d $\frac{1}{2}$. to 13d.
30 ps. $\frac{1}{4}$ ° Damask	— 366 Yds. containing 120 Cloths
	(at fundry Prices.)
1361	36997 Yards.

10000 Hanks, high white Yarn for Thread and Stocking-weavers.

Dublin,

Dublin, September 14. At the Request of Mr. *William Bradley*, examined a Bleach-yard in the Neighbourhood of this City, where there is a good Horse-Mill, and other Utensils and Apparatus, in very good Order, the Business pretty well done. It is believed there is no where a greater Necessity for Improvement in Bleaching, than near this City, as the Linen Manufactures carried on in it are very extensive, exclusive of the grey Sheetings, and other Linens brought hither for Sale, which are generally bleached in some of the many Greens near Town, and the Business mostly done very badly.

A Yearly Review is the only Method to guard against a Continuance of the Payment of Grants, where the proper Claimants are either dead, eloped, or don't fulfil their Engagements.

This Report is from the best Information that could be had in the limited Time allowed for it, and the Remarks are made, to set the true State of the Linen Manufacture of this Kingdom (so far as this JOURNAL extends to) in the clearest View, and is most humbly submitted to the Consideration of the Honourable Board, By

ROBERT STEPHENSON, Inspector.

THIS JOURNAL (although but an imperfect View of the Kingdom) enables the Reader to judge with some Certainty how the Country is Peopled, and the Inhabitants employ'd, there is very little Progress made in the Linen Manufacture, so far as it extends, but what is here represented.

If the whole Amount of all the Linen Manufactures promoted by the Encouragements of the Linen Board, in *Leinster*, *Munster* and *Connaught*, and a considerable part of *Ulster*, are valued according to the Representation of this JOURNAL, I believe they will not equal the Returns made by one of the *Northern* Country's, where the Manufacture is generally established, and this (it's plain) does not proceed from want of People, which was one of the Obstacles in Sir *William Temple's* Time; but the Gentlemen to whom this Trust hath been committed, not being truly informed of the State and Employment of the Inhabitants throughout the Kingdom, (or being led astray by the Schemes of Foreigners, and such whose Projects did not take Rise from experimental Knowledge, either with respect to what could be executed at home or demanded abroad) have for a long course of Years, persevered in encouraging the Natives to quit those Branches of the Manufacture, that it must now be obvious, both Reason and Interest inclines them to pursue.

The first and most expensive Scheme, was the Institution of Spinning-Schools, or encouraging the making of fine Yarn in this Kingdom, which seems to have taken it's Rite the 18 of *Charles* the 2d. (see page 53) but within the last thirty Years, the Linen Board have been so profuse under this Head, that I am of Opinion Teaching and Encouraging People to Spin fine Yarn, hath cost upwards of One hundred thousand Pounds, out of the half Million distributed, and by taking a View of their Number about the Year 1751, and in what Counties appointed, the Publick may the better judge of the Effects produced or promised from this extravagant Scheme.

About

About the Year 1751, the Number and Appointment of Spinning-Schools, stood thus throughout the Kingdom.

Co. of Carlow	4	Meath	7
Cavan	2	Queen's County	3
Clare	6	Roscommon	7
Cork	17	Sligo	1
Donegal	2	Tipperary	8
Dublin	6	Tyrone	2
Fermanagh	1	Waterford	3
Galway	17	Westmeath	11
Kerry	12	Wexford	10
Kildare	8	Wicklow	5
Kilkenny	13		—
King's County	9		57
Leitrim	3		125
Limerick	12		—
Longford	4		182
Louth	8		
Mayo	1		
	—		
	125		

* In this account 20 Scholars are computed to each School, which at 37*l.* 10*s.* *per* School, amounts to 6825*l.* Yearly.

I have given my Opinion in many Places throughout those Numbers of the bad Tendency of this Scheme, and the little Success attending it, in promoting fine Spinning for which it was calculated, sufficiently proves it's being unnatural; and whoever attends to the JOURNAL now published, must be of Opinion, that neither those who applied for Spinning-Schools, or those who granted them, had rightly informed themselves of the true Interest of this Kingdom.

The next Scheme that seems to have been most expensive to the Board, is under the Head of Utensils, and I believe took it's Rise in 1725 (see page 96) and

* In Colonel Archdall's Letter, (page 135) it appears the Number of Spinning-Schools increased in 1753, to 199, which he computes to 8000*l.* *per Annum* Charges; see Pages 64 and 65 in relation to them.

and in 1753, amounted to 4496*l.* *per Annum* (See Colonel *Archdall's* Letter page 135) the Frauds committed under this Head are innumerable, and as they are under the Consideration of Gentlemen who have had sufficient Experience, I shall not make farther Remarks on them at present.

Flax Shops which were an annual Charge of 4400*l.* in 1753, (see pag. 135) have been the next great drain of the Linen Fund; and it would be wasting the Reader's Time to proceed farther on this Subject, after the Notice already taken of them throughout those Numbers; the little Advantage derived from the Scheme of raising Flax, by distributing 500*l.* in each Province hath been already laid before the Reader. Inland Yarn Inspectors are placed in such a Light, as must leave no room to doubt of their Insignificance to the Publick.

There are two very prudent and rational Schemes, that have not been much attended to by the Board, the first is encouraging Manufacturers to settle in such parts of the Country as have not begun the manufacturing of their Yarn into Linen, and the other is granting small Salaries to Bleachers of Yarn or Linen in those Parts where sufficient Quantities cannot be had from the Country of either so as to support and encourage good Bleachers to reside amongst them.

In another Paper of Colonel *Archdall's* (see Page 124) we have an Account of some very expensive and unsuccessful Schemes of the Board in relation to raising Flax Seed at Home, and importing Foreign Seed; and to those we may add their Scheme of importing Foreign Flax, which was attended with as little Success, and in respect to them, see Pages 7 and 9.

Flax Dressers have been placed in a proper Light in Page 13, and throughout the JOURNAL. There are many other unnecessary Deductions from this Fund, such as Supernumerary and useles Clerks employed, contrary to an expres Act of Parliament, and Grants in Reversion of Places, so as to perpetuate the Irregularities and Difficulties the Trustees are now liable to.

I shall now propose some of those Schemes that appear to me most likely to be attended with Success, provided due Attention is had to the Execution of them, and a watchful Eye to guard against Frauds. The first I shall present to the Publick, is the Scheme which seemed to meet with general Approbation last Session in the Honourable House of Commons, and was afterwards rejected at the Linen Board, in the Place of which they substituted another, see Page 102.

The Scheme for Disposal of the Flax Premiums in the several Counties of this Kingdom, as proposed in the Honourable House of Commons last Session of Parliament, is as follows :

First, the Premiums are to be given rateably according to the real intrinsick Value of the Flax produced by the Claimants, to be first examined and valued by two Persons well skilled in that Commodity, to be appointed in each County, who are to make a Return of their whole Valuation upon Oath to the Grand Jury at the Summer Assizes following, or the Justices at the Quarter Sessions, as shall be agreed on in each County.

Secondly,

Secondly, The said Valuator of each County are to be furnished with a Book, and enter every Parcel after the Manner of the Hearth-money Collectors, and to deliver to the Claimants one half of the Cheque, with the Date, Valuation *per* Hundred Weight and Total Amount, together with the Persons Name, County, Parish, and Town Land; the other Part of the said Book to be laid before the Grand Jury, or Justices at the Quarter Sessions, to be by them approved and transmitted to the Clerk of the Linen Board in *Dublin*, to ascertain each Claimant's Premium.

Thirdly, All Claimants to be excluded, who have not their Flax valued before the Summer Assizes, to be held the succeeding Year after the Flax is raised.

Fourthly, No Claimant to be admitted, who does not produce three Hundred Weight of sound clean scutched Flax, of his own Growth and Property, by which Grand Juries at the Summer Assizes, or Justices of the Peace at the Quarter Sessions held about the same Time, will be enabled to determine the Quantity and Value of the yearly Produce, and inform the Claimants how much a Pound *Sterling*, the Premium will come to on the Flax valued in each County respectively.

The

The Form of a Book to be sent down to each County by the Board.

County of } **S** Ept. 1st, 1757. A. B. }
 Carlow, } of Carlow, produ- }
 ced to us } *four hundred and a Half* }
Weight of Flax, middling Quality, }
 value } *Thirty Shillings per* }
 Amount, L. 6 15 0 } *Hundred,*

*John Trusty, } Valua-
 Thomas Shive, } tors.*

County of Carlow, } **A.** }
 1757 } *Parish of Carlow,* came this
 Day before me, and made Oath in due Form, that *be*
produced before John Trusty and Thomas Shive, Valuators
 for this County, a Parcel of sound clean scutched Flax,
which is all Deponent's own Property and Growth, and the
 Produce of *the Year above-mentioned,* Sworn before me *the*
 1st. Day of Sept. 1757.

James Justice.

We Certify that we have examined and weighed the
 above mentioned Flax, and value it at *Thirty Shillings per*
hundred, being Four hundred and a half.
 Amount, L. 6 15 0

*John Trusty, } Valuators.
 Thomas Shive, }*

P

This Scheme will not be of much Use in the Counties where there are large Quantities of Flax raised at present, as the larger the Quantity produced in any County is, the Premium will be the less to each individual, for Instance 200*l.* paid rateably on the Value of Flax produced in the County of *Down*, may not be above two Shillings in the Pound, whereas in many Counties in *Leinster* and *Munster*, such as *Wicklow* and *Waterford*, the Candidates for this Premium might get as much the first Year as their Flax would be valued to, for supposing their Flax worth 30*l.* per Ton, it is very probable, many Counties in *Ireland* have not seven Ton raised in them annually, and by this Scheme none could be Claimants, but such as sowed half an Acre at least.

It is unnecessary to give a Premium on a smaller Quantity, as the Poor will sow their little Quantums annually, whether there is a Premium or not, and this Scheme is designed to secure in each County, sufficient Store for their own Consumption, and the Cheapness of the Material would give Life to the Manufacture in every Part of the Kingdom.

When the Inhabitants of any County come to raise so great a Quantity of Flax, as to think the Premium not worth claiming, it would be unnecessary to continue it longer there, as it is intended hereby that every County should be fully supplied within itself.

In Page 121, a Plan is promised for saving the greatest Part of our own Flax-feed annually, which may be grafted on the foregoing Scheme, for raising Flax, thus, to appropriate 25*l.* to each County

County for saving Seed fit for Sowing, and divide it rateably in each County, among the Candidates for the Flax-premium, either to such as raise their Flax from *Irish* Seed, or such as produce the greatest Value of well-saved Seed to the Valuers of the several Counties, and either of those Methods cannot fail of producing to the Publick large Quantities of sound and merchantable *Irish* Seed.

The general Dislike that seems to prevail against penal Laws in this Kingdom, requires that some Scheme should be proposed that may obviate this Difficulty and preserve the Property of all concerned. In Pages 21 to 24, the grievances of the Manufacturer, and Methods to redress them, are laid before the Publick; but a medium may be fixed whereby all Interests may be secure, and the Linen Manufacture extended free of Obstructions throughout the Kingdom.

In the Province of *Ulster*, where the Linen Manufacture has become of such Consequence, as to counterballance all the Luxuries imported into this Kingdom, it is conducted in the most convenient and easy Method that can be prescribed, so as to promote Industry and avoid Disputes; there the Draper, Weaver and Spinner, meet in publick Market; the Draper to buy such Linens as suit his Purpose; the Weaver to dispose of such Linen as he hath made of the Yarn bought in Market, and the Spinner to dispose of her Yarn, and buy Flax; by this means all are independent of each other, and only expect to be paid according to their Merits.

In order to promote the same Scheme as much as possible throughout the Kingdom, I would recommend giving 100*l.* Premium in manner following, in twenty five Counties, and drop them

as Markets become considerable in each County; viz. one Premium of 50*l.* one of 30*l.* and one of 20*l.* in each County respectively, (except the Counties of *Antrim, Down, Derry, Tyrone, Armagh, Monaghan, and Cavan*; those having good Markets and no Occasion for this Premium) to the Merchant or Draper who should buy and export on his own Account, to any part beyond the Seas, the greatest Number of Yards of Linen Cloth, twenty-five Inches wide or upwards, Grey or White, 50*l.* to the second, 30*l.* and to the third in Quantity, 20*l.*

This Scheme would immediately create a Market in each County for such Linens as were made fit for Exportation, and encourage Weavers to become Frugal and Industrious, and answer all the Purposes of the Manufacturer, as they now do in the *North*; however, if this Scheme should ever take place, it is proper to observe that it must be given in the *South* and *West* parts of *Donnegall*, and the *North* parts of *Louth*, as there are Linen Markets at present in the opposite parts of those Counties.

This Scheme with those for Flax and Flax-feed, are calculated, so as each County may benefit thereby, in proportion to the Care and Spirit shewn by the Gentlemen therein, and it may be reasonably supposed, that the Gentlemen in most Counties, would be more particular in promoting such Schemes as are confined to their particular Interests, and prevent Frauds, when they see the publick Fund parcelled out, so as every County may reap equal Advantage, without blending the whole Kingdom, or even Provinces together, as heretofore.

The

*The next Scheme that I would recommend to Gentlemen's Consideration, is designed to increase our Exports of Linens to Foreign Parts, by giving three Premiums annually, *viz.* one of 100*l.* to the Merchant who should export the greatest number of Yards at least twenty-five Inches wide, beyond the Seas to any Part exclusive of His Majesty's Dominions ; to the Merchant who should export the second greatest Quantity, 60*l.* and to the third, 40*l.* in order to lay a Foundation, that may soon be found a very necessary Provision for this Kingdom, in case what is suggested in Pages 118 and 119, and many other Parts of those Numbers, with respect to *Great Britain* should ever take place.

The next Scheme that I shall offer at present is to publish a Premium annually of 100*l.* for the most useful Invention either in Machinery or Materials for the Advantage or Extension of the Linen Manufacture, to be determined by a Certificate of the Linen Merchants, at the *Hall* in *Dublin* every Year.

I have now laid before the Publick, such Schemes as appear most likely to be attended with Success ; and I shall collect them together, so as to give the Reader a view of their Amount, and some farther Remarks with respect to the Application of the remainder of the Fund.

The

*The Inspectors of Yarn in the capital Towns for Exportation of Linen Yarn, may view the Linens Exported, agreeable to this Scheme without any additional charge to the Publick.

	<i>per Annum.</i>
The Scheme proposed for raising Flax at 200/. in each County, is ———	L. 6400
Towards encouraging the saving <i>Irish</i> Flax-feed, at 25/. in each County,	800
For making publick Markets in 25 Counties in <i>Ireland</i> ——— ———	2500
For Inspectors to make all Yarn above 2 Dozen Statuteable, See p. 154.	300
For Exporting the greatest number of Yards to any part beyond the Seas, exclusive of His Majesty's Domi- nions. ——— ——— ——— ———	200
For the most useful Invention, either in Machinery or Materials. ———	100
	—————
	Total L. 10300

There are some annual Grants of the Board, that it would not be prudent to drop, among which Bleach-yards and Utenfils granted for them, may amount to One thousand Pounds *per Annum*, Manufacturers introducing new Branches, or settling in unexperienced Parts of the Country, are deserving of greater Attention and Encouragement, than they have met with of late Years.

A Proper annual Inspection into the Merits of the several Claimants, by Men of Experience and Character, will be attended with a considerable Charge to the Publick.

There

There are many other annual Expences of the Board, such as their Officers of the Linen and Yarn, Halls, Printing, &c. that may be easily Estimated; and should those or any general Schemes take place, the Business of a Clerk to the Board will be an Office easily executed, and by that means, be a great saving of the Fund, if such only as are useful, be continued.

Before I close this Number it may be necessary to remind the Reader of two Particulars, that may seem no way pertinent to this Inquiry, where they are Quoted; But there cannot be a better time than the present, to seek for Redress, if it is thought requisite; the first is in relation to the Provision made for guarding our Seas, and protecting our Trade; see pages 39, 50 and 70; yet notwithstanding the great Revenue appropriated to this particular Purpose, the Linen Merchants and all Traders in this Kingdom during the late War, and the present, have severely experienced the general Neglect shewn to our Trade by the Board of Admiralty, which not only check our Exports and Imports, and oppress the Merchant, but considering Land-carriage, Delays, and Damages, which Goods carried over Land in *England* are liable to; and in all Branches of Trade, the high Price of Insurance, occasioned by want of proper Convoys, is constantly an immense Tax on this Kingdom in the Time of War.

The next Article is the general neglect shewn by Magistrates in the Execution of the Linen Statutes, which renders all Laws made for promoting thereof, useless in most Parts of the Kingdom; * but as there has been much Pains taken by Parliament heretofore, in order to remedy this Grievance, which hath not proved
Effectual,

* See pages 71, 76, 98, &c.

Effectual, some Provision in the next Linen Bill, to enforce the Execution of those Statutes, would greatly contribute to the extension of the Linen Manufacture.

I have now collected together as well as my Time would admit, all that appears to me, necessary, towards informing the Publick of the present State and Condition of this our Staple Manufacture; and such Gentlemen as can Improve or Controvert my Observations, will do publick Service, by communicating their Sentiments.

If I may have appeared too free, in my Remarks on many Occasions throughout those Numbers; yet I am confident, there are very few that regard the Prosperity of this Kingdom, who would have conveyed their Sentiments with greater Moderation, were they as thoroughly satisfied of the Facts represented herein, as I have been, from the Beginning; I shall always be as ready to approve reasonable Measures, as I hope I shall be enabled to discover and publish such as tend to destroy the most essential Interests of *IRELAND*.

F I N I S.



ERRATUM.

In Page 177, Line 21. After *County*, read in *Proportion to its Numbers*.